

Food Forensics



FOOD RISK UPDATE NEWSLETTER June 2023

HIGHLIGHTS



- High winds have damaged the Sicilian lemon crop.
- Drought in Europe has resulted in a straw shortage affecting mushroom production.
- Concerns over Greek cherries and kiwi's being marketed as Romanian or Italian.
- Many mango growing regions have been hit with production issues this year.
- Flooding in Italy and Spain will impact fruit and vegetable supply, potential microbial issues in field crops.
- Shell eggs still short in the UK with imports still coming in, with the housing order now lifted, over 65% of UK eggs should be from free range systems.
- Gum arabic supply from Sudan may be disrupted by conflict.

Protein

Avian Influenza (AI)

Things appear much quieter, there are currently a handful of surveillance and protection zones active in the UK, in Lincolnshire, Wales and Sussex. In Europe, outbreaks in poultry have decreased but gull remain heavily affected by the virus. In the USA there remain sporadic outbreaks in poultry flocks but AI is widespread in wild birds. In the USA 58 million birds across 325 flocks in 47 states have been affected.

Brazil has declared an AI emergency. As the worlds largest exporter of chicken meat the impact of significant outbreaks in Brazil would be high.

Eggs

South Africa's largest egg producer, Quantum Foods has reduced the population of chicken by 420,000 at one of its farms in the Western Cape due to an outbreak of AI, they are warning of an egg production reduction.

Italian shell eggs still for sale in UK retail. The UK remains the main importer of European eggs and products (up 13.9% in Jan/Feb compared to 2022).

US egg prices have increased 16.6% in 2023, largely on the back of AI losses.

US egg price dropped dramatically after Easter, even below Brazilian prices. Where the housing order has been lifted for

more than 6 weeks, the free ranging egg test will restart. In the UK this will be from June.

Poultry Meat

The UK is considering increasing poultry meat import quotas for Brazil from July. There are some concerns over the UK's ability to assess sites for integrity and safety. Previously, as part of the EU, the EU Commission found fraudulent laboratory certification of meat products for export. Several establishments were de-listed as a result. The UK is now responsible for making its own assessments on establishments.

EU poultry meat production increased by 3.5% compared to the same period last year, mainly as a result of increases in Italy (+26%) and Poland (+1.7%). French production decreased (-11%).

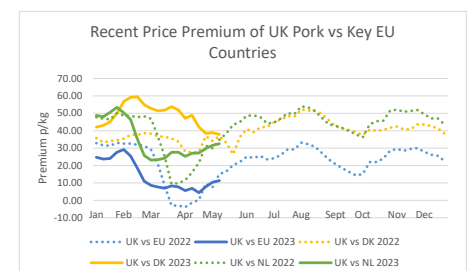
Dairy

Milk production is increasing in GB and UK. Good grass growth and cereal prices off their peaks has resulted in the milk to feed price ratio reducing. The wet weather meant many farms were unable to capitalise on the strong grass growth. The recent warmer weather has resulted in much drier field conditions, the spring flush may therefore be less pronounced but over a wider time-frame. Whole milk powder and condensed milk production were down Jan-Feb 23 compared to the same period last year. Australian milk production is down 5.4% compared to last year. New Zealand is down 0.8%. China has increased Whey

powder imports by 63% compared to last year.

Pig Meat

Forecast pig production in the EU is down over 4%. Slaughter numbers, up to Feb 23, were down 8%. Piglet prices are up 62% compared to the same time last year. The EU has seen a significant increase in imports of fresh pig products. While EU exports are down 10% overall (Jan 23 compared to Jan 22) exports to the UK have increased 1.7% and to Japan +10%. EU prices remained high compared to Brazil, US and Canada (>150%).



African Swine Fever (ASF)

Since the last report on 17 April 2023, African swine fever has been confirmed on a domestic pig farm and in four wild boars in a newly affected region of southern Italy. The disease has also been detected in wild boar in the Czech Republic and in domestic pigs in Greece. Outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Romania, Serbia and Ukraine, and in wild boar in Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.



Lamb

Q1 in the UK saw imports down 33% and exports increase 22% on the same period in 2022. There has been an increase in frozen leg imports compared to fresh. In the UK lamb prices saw month-on-month price increases (+21%). Supplies are tighter in the EU as production is down. Available lambs in the Republic of Ireland were up 4.3%, prices are subdued as a result. Exports into the UK declined 15.8% (Jan/Feb 23 compared to Jan/ Feb 22).

Beef

US beef production is reducing (estimated by 5%) as a result of feed-lot contraction with drought. Increased production in Australia, Brazil, China and India compensates for this. In the UK, beef imports increased in March, up 19% on February. Fresh and frozen exports also reduced. In the UK the recent spell of hot weather coinciding with warmer BBQ weather will drive demand for visual lean for burgers.

EU beef production is up over 1% (by weight).

Shrimp

Low rainfall and heat has resulted in a reduction of ~40% in shrimp production in Bangladesh.

The US Department of State has given notice of its determination to suspend the certification of wild-caught shrimp fisheries in certain Malaysian states. Section 609 prohibits the importation of wild caught shrimp unless a fishery or country has certification from the State Department. Concerns have been raised over the continued importation of shrimp from uncertified countries (approx 3% of imports) as country of origin rules require origin to be declared. Most of the shrimp from uncertified countries have come from Indonesia, India and Burma.

Cod & Haddock

The ground-fish fishery in the U.S. Northeast is facing new regulations and management as haddock and cod stocks are depleted. A new plan from New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) will implement a decade of low catch limits, with the goal of rebuilding the Gulf of Maine cod stock. It will also guide the 2023 fishing year.

Salmon

Norwegian salmon prices dropped 10% in a week from all time high prices. Volumes remain flat.

Bacterial kidney disease has been reported at four salmon sites in central Norway. It appears the disease has been spread by wellboats and deworming vessels.

Shellfish

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) alert in place for the Western side of the Firth of Thames, New Zealand.

High levels of E.coli in oysters and mussels have resulted in the closure of 11 shellfish production zones in Cornwall. There are concerns these are the result of sewage spills.

Fishmeal & Fish Oil

Fishmeal production increased, largely as a result of a late start to the second fishing season in Peru. Fish oil production reduced 9% as a result of a drop in production in Iceland and the North Atlantic region.

Demand for fishmeal from China reduced, overstocking in aquaculture in China reduced prices and delayed restocking. As a result fishmeal demand was more subdued than expected.

Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing

Wild-caught seafood is often untraceable – and some industry players don't want that to change. There are concerns that current practices allow relabelling of fish.

Authorities in Thailand and South Korea have taken action against a Korean fishing vessel suspected of engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The US has to decide what sanctions to impose on Mexico following a ruling by the US Fish and Wildlife Service that Mexico is not doing enough to protect the critically endangered vaquita porpoise. According to environmental groups, illegal fishing continues in the vaquita 's habitat.

Petfood

Petfood/Animal Feed In the News

Raw pheasant pet food for dogs containing high levels of lead has raised the risk of lead poisoning after 77% of samples tested had lead concentrations higher than the MRL.

Petfood RASFF Alerts

Insect larvae in whole milk replacer for puppies and kittens from Spain (into Lithuania).

Unauthorised feed additives/ feed materials in complementary feed for cats and dogs from United Kingdom.

Salmonella in complete feed (raw pet food) for dogs from Greece.

Wheat bran pellets for animal feed from Angola with moulds and moisture reported.

Metal fragments in dog snacks from China.

Mould in feed - corn from Ukraine.

Produce

Soft Fruit

Cold weather in Poland has damaged red and blackcurrant production with bud development damaged. The impact on blueberries has not yet been established.

Serbia is forecasting a 15% increase in blueberry harvest for 2023 as a result of favourable weather.

Top Fruit

Cyclone Gabrielle in February resulted in a reduction of 13.5% in the hectares of productive orchard after landslides, flooding and silt destroyed orchards. There may also be an increase in pesticides used to control pests as a result of the damage,

Italian apple stocks as of May 1st were 10% lower than the average of the last 5 years and 16% lower than last season. Golden Delicious apples are particularly affected, 35% lower than last year.

The closure of the Urgell Canal will result in Catalanian top fruit producers losing ~58% of their apples and ~52% of their pears as the lack of irrigation from this canal impacts production in hot weather. There are some concerns as to whether there will be adequate irrigation to keep the trees alive.

Stone Fruit

High winds in Sicily have resulted in damaged cherry orchards and fruit losses. Apricots and peaches have also been affected.

Weather issues in Spain have resulted in a shortage of stone fruit in the market. Quality is expected to be good and supply should increase in the coming weeks, that said, the recent heavy rains may impact ripe fruit, damaging skins and increasing risk of fungal disease and rot. There is a reliance on desalination plants but the energy cost of these is substantial.



Late spring rain damages Hungary's early 2023 cherry crop. Frosts at the beginning of April damaged apricots with losses of up to 100% reported in some areas.

Cold weather in the Spring has damaged Poland's fruit crops. Frosts have damaged cherry and plum yields.

Texas is expecting to harvest only 25% of its normal peach crop. Drought conditions, insufficient winter chill and some bud loss has resulted in crop loss.

The quality of Greek cherries is good, but there are reports that a significant proportion of the produce is exported to competing countries, to then be sold as cherries from that region. Most exporters are selling their largest volumes to Italy and Romania, straight from the farms. As a result, Greek products end up at the European market as Italian or Romanian. There are also suggestions the same thing is happening with Kiwi fruit from Greece.

Citrus

Winds in Sicily have damaged lemon crops - the trees were in blossom when the winds hit resulting in near total losses on some farms.

The rising demand for mandarins in the US and a shortage of fruit in Europe has seen the price of Peruvian fruit rise.

In Europe, prices are increasing as there is a shortage of imported fruits. In the US demand has increased.

Mango

Pakistan's fruit and vegetable exporters fear the country's mango crop may be reduced by 20% this year due to the adverse climate change effects during the ongoing season. There are also reports of a mysterious fungal disease affecting high production mango and dates.

High winds and rain in the Veracruz region of Mexico has resulted in 50-70% crop losses.

Cote d'Ivoire is forecasting a reduction of 30% in mango output following a lack of rainfall.

Rains in India have affected orchard in Anantapur and Kadapa.

Exotics

Following the typical low point in Mexican pineapple supplies, which runs generally from late March to the first week in May, supplies are slowly increasing. Weather events in South America over the past

year have hurt the imported Costa Rican crop. Demand on the retail and food service side is growing too. As a result of shortages and supply gaps coupled with increasing demand, prices have increased.

Drought and lack of infrastructure threatens the Spanish region of Granada's tropical fruit production both in the short and long term (avocado, mangoes and cherimoyas). Growers are having to prune trees to try to protect them from the drought which will mean that production will not return to significant levels for 3 to 4 years.

Mexican fig harvest is likely to end leaving a few weeks supply gap before the Californian supply kicks into production.

The Kiwi Committee of Chile has estimated a 14% reduction in kiwi harvest. New Zealand has reported a reduction of 31%, the smallest harvest for 20 years. Italy has lost ~40% of its kiwi production due to heavy rains, Spain has lost ~20%. Greek kiwi fruit will be in high demand. France has reported some market shortages.

A lack of pineapple supply in Australia has pushed prices to record highs. The reduced crop was the result of immature flowering in the summer. The drought forced the plants to flower but the plants were too immature for the flowers to set. With a recovery time of 15-18 months it will take some time before supply is able to return to normal levels.

Melon

Uncertainty on the volumes of watermelons in Morocco remain as farmers are reluctant to declare their volumes. Government imposed restrictions on melon production due to the ongoing drought have been ignored by some farmers. There is certainly a lack of transparency.

Melon and watermelon producers have estimated a > 20% decrease in the production of these two fruits due to drought and high production costs in Spain. Spain has forecast a significant decrease in the acreage planted for Charentais, Gailia and Cantaloupe melon for 2023 and there remain concerns over water availability. Morocco has also reduced plantings. France has remained stable.

Cold weather has resulted in a late start to the watermelon season in Mexico. There are also some planting gaps in California as a result of rains and flooding. These may result in a shortage of watermelon for

the 4th July celebrations.

Tomatoes, Peppers & Cucumbers

Morocco exported more tomatoes than Spain in 2022 by volume. Spanish exports remained top by value. Most of the Moroccan exports went to France, UK, Netherlands, Spain and Mauritania. There were some concerns tomatoes from Morocco into Spain may have been sold on as Spanish.

There are concerns in the EU that high and uncontrolled imports of tomatoes from Morocco threaten the competitiveness of EU and UK production. There are also concerns over plant health and packaging policies.

Nigerian tomato growers are struggling with an infestation of *Tuta absoluta* - a moth infestation where the larvae, feeding on the tomato leaves, can result in 100% crop loss. Losses are currently estimated at 90%. Prices have increased as a result.

Potatoes

The rains recorded in Andalusia and Cartagena have interrupted the early potato harvest in the main production areas. Demand is expected to outstrip supply. This has come on top of smaller acreage planted due to the lack of water from the long term drought.

Demand for potatoes in Europe is high and production is low. Egypt is setting itself up to supply processing potatoes and French fry potatoes.

In the UK white packing potato prices are up 22% mom as planting has been delayed as a result of heavy rains. This is likely to delay the arrival of early potatoes.

The Sicilian new potato season will be much reduced this year as weather issues result in a 50% reduction in the crop yield.

Yucca/Cassava

Problems with Yucca/ Cassava supply from Costa Rica are reducing quality and increasing costs. There is some oxidation in the crop requiring trimming reducing the quality.

Celery

Cold and rainy weather in California has resulted in supply issues for celery. Supplies are coming in from Mexico to cover the supply gaps.

Brassicas

Late planting may well result in late harvests in the UK, there may be supply



gaps in June. The UK season for red cabbage finished earlier than expected causing shortages. Spanish product should be available in the next few weeks.

Mushrooms

One of the consequences of the drought is the shortage of straw, which is leading to a large increase in straw prices. This increase in prices enormously complicates maintaining mushroom production, which depends on straw for the preparation of compost. Some growers have already stopped mushroom production as a result of the lack of compost.

Avocado

Cold spells in October in New Zealand resulted in lower fruit set. Cold weather has also resulted in poorer quality, ridged, fruit. As harvest progresses there could be an oversupply if the quality prevents exports.

Garlic & Ginger

Heavy rains in Italy are compromising garlic quality as high humidity persists. Financial speculation in China has started again on garlic which could also impact prices.

Low prices last season encouraged Peruvian farmers to move into coffee rather than ginger. As a result there is less ginger in the ground this year. Prices have increased this year as a result but buyers are preferring to purchase cheaper Brazilian and Chinese product.

There is strong demand for Egyptian garlic, rising prices of other origins is making Egyptian supply competitive.

Yellow rust disease in garlic in regions of India is causing concern for the pending harvest. Late use of fungicides may be applied.

Asparagus

US asparagus crop stalls with the recent cold weather. UK and European asparagus is in full production.

Nuts

For the second year in a row an emergency has been declared in California due to the impact of weather on almonds covering 40,000 acres in the country. This would be the second year in a row that almond yields have dropped.

Input costs are moving farmers to plant peanuts over cotton in the USA. The low levels of moisture in the soil increases the reliance on irrigation. Demand for organic peanuts have increased moving price differential 2.5-3x that of conventional

peanuts.

Sugar

Rising sugar prices has resulted in increases in hoarding and smuggling in Pakistan. Sugar mill owners were allowed to export sugar providing the stock of sugar was greater than the local requirement. However, sugar Mafia have created an artificial crisis for financial gain. Increases in EU white sugar prices reflect the reduced production. Sugar import have increased into the EU.

Coffee

There are supply concerns on Robusta coffee as rain disrupts the development stage of coffee in Indonesia. Arabica, by contrast, has seen prices come down as Columbia is expecting production in increase.

Cocoa

Cocoa prices have support after the head of the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Company said that the spread of swollen shoot disease threatens cocoa yields in the Ivory Coast. There are signs of a more bullish demand for cocoa.

Rice

India has allowed the export of broken rice to meet the needs of other countries food security. Broken rice exports had not been permitted and a 20% export duty imposed on exports of various grades since September 22.

Cereals

Wheat crops in Kansas have been hit by drought causing stunted growth and crops turning blue due to the stress.

Cereals in parts of Spain are experiencing water stress. The warmer weather has progressed the crops but lack of water is now causing stress.

In the UK it looks like there will be significant opening stocks for grain. Crop forecasts for this harvest look good as weather conditions have been favourable. There is slightly lower demand for animal feed. Demand remains subdued therefore there may be an exportable surplus for the 2023/24 season. Barley demand is down.

There has been increased demand for maize in animal feed in Northern Ireland.

Chinese wheat crops have been hit by heavy rain resulting in concerns over quality and production.

Maize crops in New Zealand are under attack from the fall army-worm. Any reduction in yield may impact dairy feed.

Honey

Approximately 5 firms own the majority of Americas beehives, a major vulnerability. A report into the USA pollination industry suggest 40% of managed beehives died last year and mortality rates are increasing. Kenyan beekeepers ask their government to help curb fake honey. Fraudsters are using concoctions made from bananas, molasses and corn syrup to adulterate honey.

Palm Oil

Palm oil prices have continued to fall in line with other fats and oils.

Olives & Olive Oils

Global olive oil production is expected to recover in 2023/24 harvest with a 24% increase compared to last years low. Specifically increased production is expected in Europe and Tunisia, however, this will depend on precipitation levels. The global 2022/23 harvest was ~9% below the 5 year average with the EU 25% below. Turkey bucked the trend for 2022/23 reporting an increased production of 54%.

There is expected to be low carry-over olive oil stocks and unless Spain sees more rain, production will be impacted again this year.

Vegetable Oils

Prices have come well off their highs, back to more typical prices.

Gum Arabic

The ongoing conflict in Sudan could impact gum arabic supply, Sudan is the world's largest supplier of gum arabic. Increased demand for gum arabic from Chad and Nigeria is likely. While there are no reports of immediate shortages this is an area to watch.

General

Modern Slavery & Human Rights

Slavery is still occurring at scale across the world. An estimated 50 million people are considered to be in modern slavery conditions. Six of the ten countries with the largest estimated numbers of victims are G20 nations. Nearly 2/3rd of all forced labour cases are connected to global supply chains.

A report claims tea industry workers at tea plantations in areas such as India and Sri Lanka are being paid unfair wages, suffering from inhumane living standards, poor health and unsafe working



conditions.

Lack of transparency in battery supply chains needs to be addressed if net zero transition is to tackle human rights risks, researchers warn.

Sheffield Hallam University published a report detailing products made with forced labour in the Uyghur region. The list is more extensive than cotton, tomato paste and polysilicon. It also includes aluminium, PVC plastic, paprika, marigolds as well as other materials.

Sustainability

On 1 October 2023, the UK will ban single-use plastics, with the guidance having been released on 23 May. The EU have also released wide-ranging guidance on plastics. These restrictions will have an impact on food and beverage manufactures.

Businesses wishing to label their products as 'carbon neutral' within the EU are set to face new regulatory barriers, after the European Parliament voted in favour of new anti-greenwashing rules.

PFAS

PFAS are present at 'potentially dangerous' levels in widely used chemicals sprayed on food crops destined for Americans' plates according to a study by the Centre for Biological Diversity

(CBD).

Organic

Heavy rainfall in Italy has damaged Italian organic fruit and vegetable sectors. This has resulted in increased demand for organic supplies from Spain. (Affected materials include pears, apples, stone fruit, kiwis, vineyards and cereals).

Demand for organic preserved fruit and veg is growing but the prices for organic products have dropped in line with conventional products.

Afghanistan

The FAO have sounded an alarm after locusts were spotted in the north and northeast of the country. A full outbreak could destroy 1.2 million metric tonnes of wheat (a quarter of the total annual harvest).

Portugal

A drought situation has been declared in 40% of the country's southern regions, activating support measures to help farmers.

Spain

Spanish police have arrested 26 farmers for illegal water use in Malaga. They were allegedly tapping into a springs illegally to grow crops such as avocados and mangos. This comes amid serious drought

conditions. Heavy rains will result in soil contamination of field crops - watch for increase microbiological risk as a result.

Italy

Severe floods in northern Italy has resulted in disruption and losses to the countries fruit and vegetable sector. Kiwi, plums, pears, apples and vegetable have all been affected with acres remaining under water. There are concerns that the result will be rotting roots and losses of entire plantations.

Tunisia

Four years of drought has resulted in crop losses of ~50% as a result of regulation of water irrigation. Tomatoes and peppers have been badly affected as have melons and watermelons.

Greece

Wet weather has impacted fruit crops in Greece with reductions in apricots, greengages, strawberries and watermelons. Asparagus has also been affected.

New settings

You are now able to highlight and comment on this PDF. We have changed the setting to help you highlight and comment on areas of relevance to your business.

Eggs

The impact globally of Avian Influenza has resulted in some unusual patterns of egg supply. The UK has been selling imported shell eggs and more are being routed into food service. With the housing order now a distant memory it would be worth thinking about egg authenticity. Are the eggs from where you think they are from? Are they from the production system they claim? If you are purchasing eggs that are not Lion Eggs, are they from salmonella vaccinated flocks? If not, the advice about how eggs are consumed by vulnerable people must be revised. A report this month informed of two people knowingly selling eggs contaminated with salmonella in the Netherlands - clearly it happens. Approximately 65% of the UK eggs come from Free Range production systems - our free ranging test is now available again - it may be worth considering revisiting your egg supply risk assessment and consider testing.

If you would like more information on the testing, available tests or to arrange testing [Contact us](#)

IN THE NEWS: May

Grocery

Shopkeeper arrested in Kenya over adulterated sugar.

Unauthorised colour Sudan I (>2000 µg/kg) and Sudan 3 (26 ± 13 µg/kg) in sweet and sour sauce from Russia.

Muesli and seed mix products recalled as they contain organic flax seed from Turkey which has been found to contain mustard.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) has teamed up with industry stakeholders and researchers to curb adulteration of Kenya's basmati rice Basmati rice is prone to many

sorts of adulteration for economic benefits, which may involve, among others, the unreported blending of other non-basmati varieties of rice.

New Zealand loses manuka honey trademark case as the New Zealand intellectual property office ruled that the country does not hold an exclusive claim to the manuka honey classification.

Herbs and Spices

Unauthorised colours Sudan III and Sudan IV in paprika seasoning preparation from Turkey into Germany.

10 people were detained for making adulterated spices using chemicals and adulterated colours. Turmeric, pepper, coriander and toxic chemicals were seized.

50T of adulterated fennel, 64t of inferior quality fennel and 3t of chemical powders were seized in a factory in India.

Unauthorised colour orange II in curry powder from India.

Over 3 tonnes of poor quality chilli, turmeric and coriander mixed with rice husk and colours (green red and yellow) were seized



in India, including packed powders ready for shipping.

Three companies were raided in India on suspicion of adulterating spices including chilli, turmeric, coriander, cumin and ginger. Of 12 samples tested 5 were determined as unsafe following testing, 5 were adulterated and two were substandard. The samples declared unsafe had been adulterated with rice starch and oil soluble dyes.

A unit was raided in India and chilli powder adulterated with colours was seized.

A manufacturing unit was found to be preparing ginger garlic paste with xanthan gum, acetic acid and other materials.

Dairy

Seven milk sellers have been arrested in Pakistan for selling adulterated milk. In addition, adulterated milk was discarded by the Punjab Food Authority.

Two seizures from different locations of adulterated ghee were made in India. Ghee was found packed in tins, plastic drums and an iron tank. Other adulterated ghee was found as packets of ghee at another location.

Police seized acetic acid, palm oil, glyceryl monostearate, all used for making adulterated paneer, skimmed milk powder and adulterated ready-made paneer were also seized at a dairy unit in Pune, India.

Dutch farm owner/manager charged with selling salmonella contaminated eggs; one man died.

1,600kg of adulterated paneer seized in India. The supplier admitted to the adulteration and claimed to have been supplying paneer for 1.5 years..

Two ice cream owners fined for making adulterated ice cream and selling it under a known brand. The ice cream included harmful colours and flavours.

Produce

High levels of lead were found in asparagus from Spain.

A temporary restriction has been introduced on the import of pepper and kiwi from Iran to Azerbaijan due to pest and disease issues.

New report finds 3% of fruits and vegetables sampled in California failed to meet pesticide safety standards.

Chichester-based businesses Madestein (UK) Ltd and Fresh Willow Ltd are up for sale after entering administration last month. Both companies struggled to cope with high

energy prices and labour challenges. The businesses are continuing to trade as new buyers are sought.

GMO Rice, eggplant and corn approved in the Philippines.

Protein

The Dutch food agency identified 5,700 possible violations in red meat and poultry slaughterhouses in the first half of 2022.

Suspicion of fraud as Pig DNA in identified in canned beef ham from Latvia.

6 men and a company have been fined for animal welfare offences. They worked at a slaughterhouse in Chester and were sentenced for offences including causing avoidable pain, distress or suffering to animals.

Seafood

Substitution of species *anguilla bengalensis* (mottled eel) from India reported in Italy.

\$3000 of king crab were stolen from a Californian fish market.

Police in Spain and France break up an international eel smuggling gang with 27 people arrested and tonnes of baby eels seized.

The Taiwanese Coast Guard intercepted a Chinese ship loaded with eels. The eels were reported to have been caught in forbidden waters. The crew were ordered to throw the eels back into the sea.

Oils and fats

Research into avocado oils found only 31% were pure and only 36% of the advertised quality. Low priced oils were more likely to have been adulterated.

Beverage

Punjab Food Authority (PFA) confiscated 9,655 litres of drinks and empty bottles in a unit producing fake carbonated beverages. Fake carbonated drinks were being prepared with hazardous chemicals, loose non-food grade colours, artificial sweeteners, unclean tap water and other harmful ingredients. Non-food grade plastic bottles and fake labelling were also being used for packing purposes.

Fake Johnnie Walker Black Label whisky and other brands were found during a raid on a bottling plant in Moscow. This comes after Diageo boycotted the Russian market. There are concerns the fake whisky is unsafe with reports suggesting it included a black oily substance.

A property in Mexico was raided with equipment for making fake Coco-Cola seized including bottles, bottle caps and more. It was not clear if any of the counterfeit product had been exported.

12,500 empty bottles of carbonated drinks were seized in India. The bottles were non food-grade and the fake labels and lack of proper records posed a threat to human health.

A factory in Qatar was reportedly altering the expiry dates of bottled juices.

Europe

Spanish authorities have confiscated more than 16 tons of food that they said was unfit for human consumption. These included dead rodents in different parts of the warehouse and their droppings, insects, dirt inside the cold rooms, foods with expired shelf lives, labels with modified expiration dates and a lack of product traceability documents. Products included beverages, canned items, meat products, nuts and various types of sweets.

The global turnover of counterfeit Made in Italy food products has risen to 120 billion euros. Coldiretti, a farmers association, claim Russia and the USA have the most growth in fake Italian products and have the highest turnover.

Maple Honey from the Czech Republic was recalled as laboratory analysis proved that the honey was of a different botanical origin.

Irish police raided the offices of a fishing company in County Donegal, in the northwest of the country, on the basis of information that the firm had paid bribes to an African leader for access to fishing rights.

Further afield

Four Chinese nationals, two wanted in China in separate major criminal fraud cases and two for smuggling plastic waste, have been arrested in Bangkok and two other provinces.

Cargill, the world's biggest grain trader accused of shoddy due diligence of their Brazilian soya supply chain, failing to deal with deforestation and alleged rights violations.

Pakistan's Punjab Food Authority discards over 600 litres of substandard juices.

Companies officially accused twice or more of food fraud will be named on a blacklist to be published and made available to the public in Russia in a bid to reduce the incidence of food fraud.



FOOD SAFETY: May

Country No of Alerts

France	66
United States	34
Turkey	30
Spain	21
Netherlands	21
Italy	21
Germany	18
United Kingdom	17
Poland	17
India	16
Australia	16
Belgium	13
Canada	12
Ukraine	12
Egypt	11
Kenya	8
Luxembourg	8
China	8
Ireland	7
Austria	6
Czechia	6
New Zealand	6
Denmark	5
Brazil	5
Morocco	5
Ecuador	4
Norway	4
Portugal	4
Vietnam	4
Thailand	4
Latvia	3
Pakistan	3
Iran	3
Greece	3
Lithuania	2
Estonia	2
Syria	2
Sweden	2
Afghanistan	2
Peru	2
Indonesia	2
Uzbekistan	1
Slovakia	1
Uruguay	1
Romania	1
Hungary	1
Russia	1
Croatia	1
Senegal	1
Rwanda	1
North Macedonia	1
Belarus	1
Tunisia	1
Finland	1
Mexico	1
Madagascar	1
Angola	1
Uganda	1
Argentina	1
Bangladesh	1
Taiwan	1
Bulgaria	1
Serbia	1
Lebanon	1

Total 458

SUMMARY

There were **367 Red**, **53 Amber** and **39 Green** for a total of **459 safety alerts and product recalls*** in May.

The majority of alerts were for microbiology and pesticide contamination (33.9% and 18.7% respectively).

156 micro alerts (42% Salmonella, 24% Listeria); E.coli accounted for 10% and Norovirus 4% due to numerous detects in molluscs.

86 Pesticide alerts (33% Chlorpyrifos, 3% ETO and Acephate).

Top 3 number of alerts by commodity

- 1. Produce:** Peppers, oranges, salad
- 2. Prepared:** Snacking, sauces, ready meals
- 3. Seafood:** Prawns, salmon, clams

Top 3 number of alerts by county of origin

- 1. France:** Cheese, sausages, bakery
- 2. USA:** Snacking, nuts, sauces
- 3. Turkey:** Peppers, lemons, figs

*Safety alerts & product recalls compiled from RASFF, FDA, AFSCA, CFIA, Rappel Consommateur, potravniny na pranyr, SFA, CFS, MPI, FSAI & Food Standards AU

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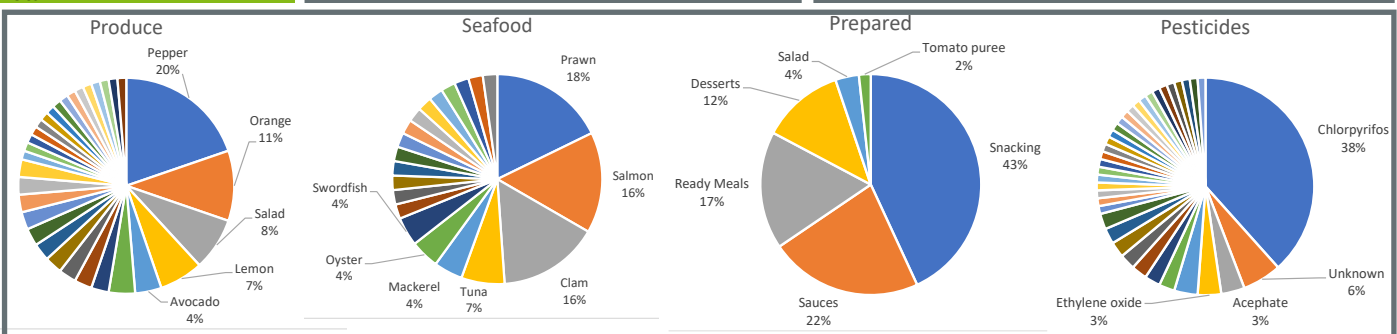
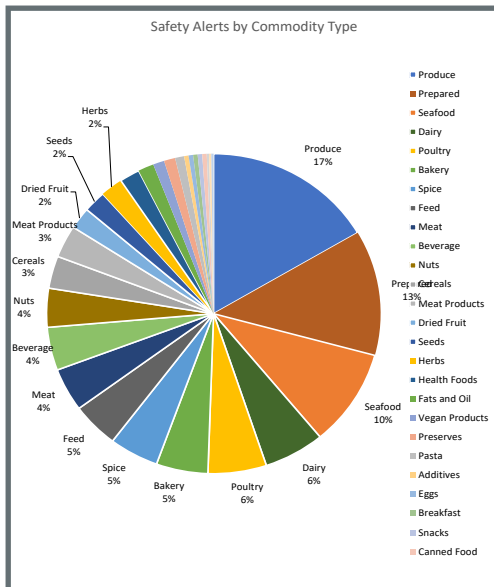
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For more information about Knowledge Base, Testing & other services.

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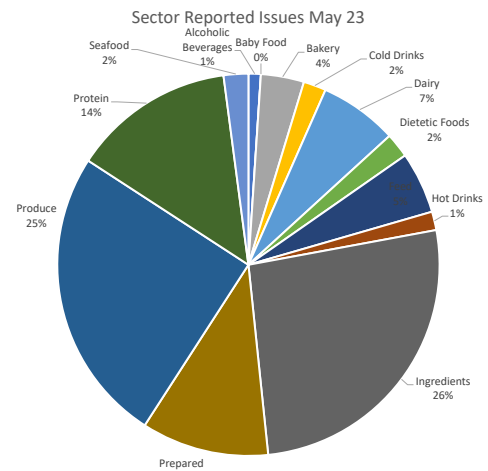
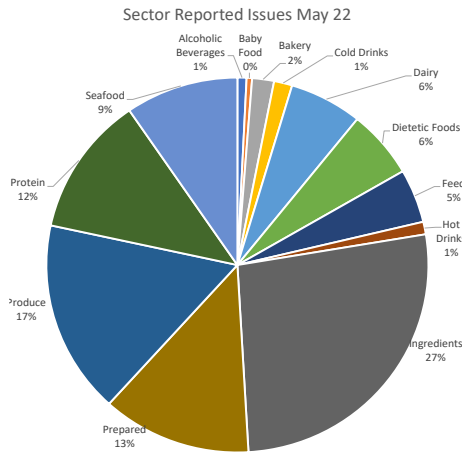
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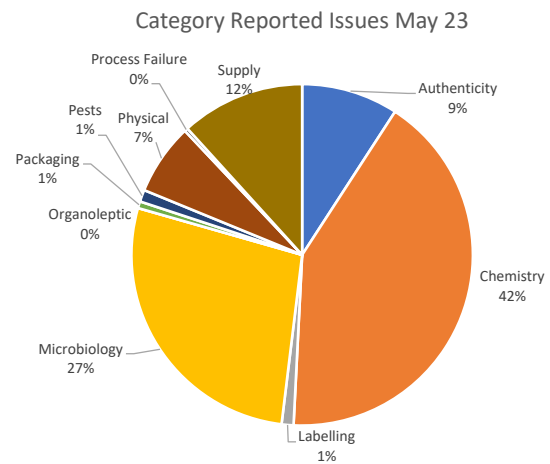
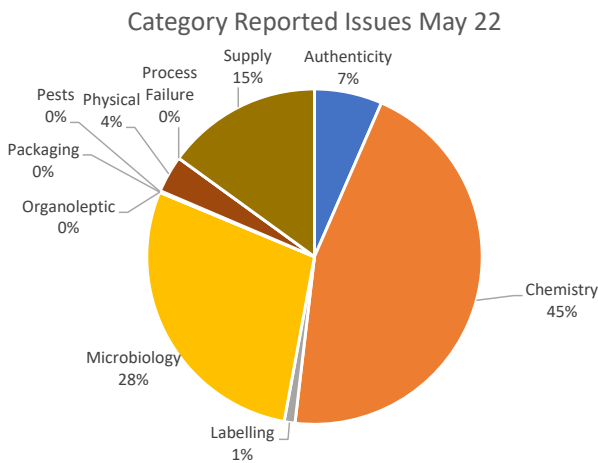




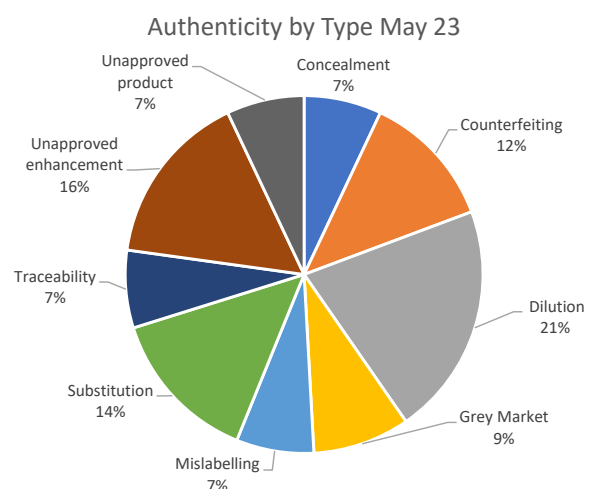
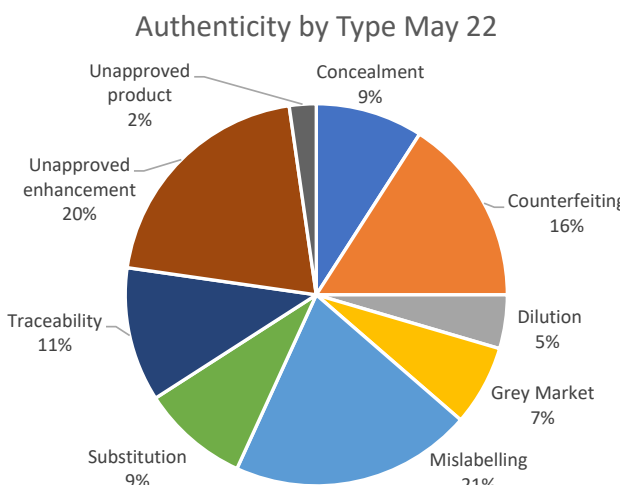
Knowledge Base Trends



Increases in issues reported in feed, produce and seafood in April 23 compared to the same month last year.



Again an increase in Authenticity issues but also physical issues reported.



From last month there has been an increase in counterfeiting, dilution and unapproved enhancement. From the same time last year an increase in dilution and substitution has been seen in May 23.

This information comes from the on-line Food Forensics Knowledge Base platform. If you are interested in access to Knowledge Base and would like a (no pressure) 15 min demo please contact Barry.Hilton@foodforensics.co.uk or info@foodforensics.co.uk