

January 2021

ECONOMIC BULLETIN Q3 2020

Partial recovery in production, turnover and retail trade – and lower imports

Food and drink industry

Partial recovery in production, turnover and a second consecutive quarterly dip in manufacturing prices

- In Q3 2020, EU food and drink industry production increased by 8.2% compared to the previous quarter.
- EU food and drink industry turnover increased by 5.9% compared to the previous quarter.
- The year-on-year comparison shows a moderate decrease in food and drink industry production compared to total manufacturing production (-0.4% vs. -5.9% compared to Q3 2019). A similar trend was observed for the year-on-year development in food and drink industry turnover compared to total manufacturing (-1.1% vs. -7.7% compared to Q3 2019).
- Food manufacturing prices decreased by 0.6% for the second consecutive quarter after Q2 2020 and were up by 0.5% compared to Q3 2019.

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Moderate increase in food industry employment

- In Q3 2020, employment in food manufacturing increased compared to the previous quarter and in contrast to the decrease observed in total manufacturing (0.2% vs. -0.7%).
- Year-on-year, employment levels in the food and drink industry decreased, but to a lesser extent than for total manufacturing (Q3 2020/Q3 2019: -1.2%, -2.2%, -2.8% respectively).

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Food and drink confidence continues to deteriorate

In Q4 2020, confidence dropped in both the food (-3.4 points) and drink industry (-8.5 points) compared to the previous quarter. By contrast, confidence of total manufacturing continued to pick up (+4.3 points).

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EU exports totalled €36.5 billion

- EU exports of food and drinks totalled €36.5 billion in Q3 2020 (Q3 2020/Q3 2019: -0.4%).
- The trade balance reached a surplus of €17.4 billion (Q3 2020/Q3 2019: +6%).

- The top 5 products with the largest share in export value generated €18.2 billion in Q3 2020 (meat products, dairy products, wine, processed fruits and vegetables, cocoa, chocolate and confectionery).
- EU imports of food and drinks reached €19 billion (Q3 2020/Q3 2019: -5.6%).

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Agricultural commodities

FAO food price index increased by 4.1%

- The FAO food price index increased by 4.1% in Q3 2020 compared to the previous quarter and by 1.9% compared to Q3 2019.
- In Q3 2020, the commodity prices of all major agricultural commodities increased compared to the previous quarter (SMP, WMP, various oils and oil crops, coffee, cocoa), except for soft wheat, maize and white sugar prices.
- The year-on-year comparison equally shows an increase in world market prices for most agricultural commodities, except for maize, WMP, and cocoa.

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Retail

Increase in retail trade in foodstuffs

- Retail trade in foodstuffs in Q3 2020 increased by 0.2% compared to the previous quarter whereas total retail trade was up 9.8%.
- Year-on-year, both retail trade in foodstuffs and total retail trade increased by 2.4%.
- Consumer prices decreased by 1.7% in Q3 2020 and increased by 2% year-on-year.

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FoodDrinkEurope Data & Trends 2020 report now available

 The EU food and drink industry employs 4.82 million people, generates a turnover of €1.2 trillion and €266 billion in value added, making it the largest manufacturing industry in the EU.

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- Except for imports and exports data which represent the evolution of the current quarter compared to the same quarter of the previous year, all other evolutions are primarily represented with respect to the previous quarter of the same year.
- EU refers to EU27 (excluding the UK) in the text, unless otherwise specified.
- The EU food and drink industry is identified by NACE Rev.2 codes C10 (manufacture of food products) and C11 (manufacture of beverages).

Sources

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European Commission, Eurostat statistics explained

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https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/indicators-statistics/economic-databases/business-and-consumer-surveys_en

FAO Food Price Index

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https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/

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About the quarterly economic bulletin

FoodDrinkEurope's Economic Bulletin is published on a quarterly basis. It covers a set of key indicators which highlight the major economic trends in the European food and drink industry: production, turnover, employment, external trade, key raw material prices, and retail trade.

For more information on FoodDrinkEurope and its activities, please visit: www.fooddrinkeurope.eu



ECONOMIC BULLETIN Q3 2020

Annex

Production and turnover of the EU food and drink industry

Production index (2015=100)

	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	у-о-у
Total manufacturing	106.4	105.1	102.0	84.9	100.1	
% change	-0.5	-1.2	-2.9	-16.8	17.9	-5.9
Food and drink industry	105.0	105.1	106.1	96.7	104.6	
% change	-0.7	0.1	1.0	-8.9	8.2	-0.4

Source: Eurostat

The industrial production index (also called industrial output index or industrial volume index) measures the changes in the price-adjusted output of industry.

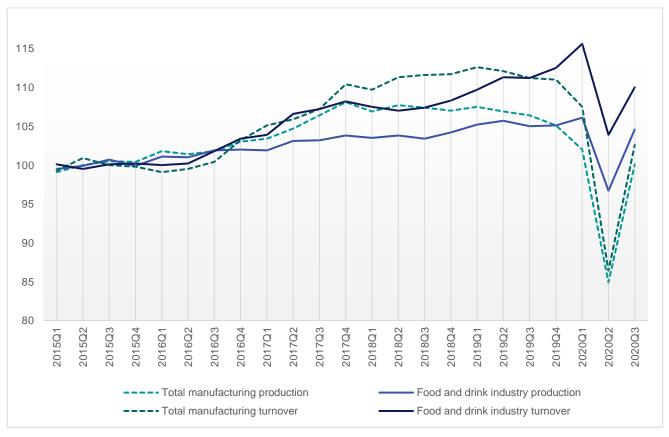
Turnover index (2015=100)

	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	у-о-у
Total manufacturing	111.2	111.0	107.5	86.4	102.6	
% change	-0.8	-0.2	-3.2	-19.6	18.8	-7.7
Food and drink industry	111.2	112.5	115.6	103.9	110.0	
% change	-0.1	1.2	2.8	-10.1	5.9	-1.1

Source: Eurostat

The index of industrial turnover measures the development of turnover (sales) in the European industry (it is influenced by changes in prices of the traded industrial goods and by changes of the traded volumes of goods).

EU quarterly manufacturing production and turnover, 2015-2020 (2015=100)



Source: Eurostat

Food and drink production by Member State

Member State	2020 Q2 / 2020 Q1 (% change)	2020 Q3 / 2020 Q2 (% change)	2020 Q3 / 2019 Q3 (% change)
EU	-8.9	8.2	-0.4
Austria	-11.5	10.7	-1.2
Belgium	-14.2	10.5	-2.7
Bulgaria	-10.0	0.8	-5.1
Czech Republic	-8.8	9.9	2.9
Denmark	-2.8	3.0	0.3
Estonia	-8.3	5.3	-3.3
Finland	-4.6	3.6	-1.6
France	-6.9	6.2	-0.9
Germany	-7.4	10.4	3.5
Greece	-9.4	4.4	-4.4
Hungary	-12.5	7.0	0.2
Italy	-5.7	6.5	-0.8
Latvia	-4.0	2.6	-0.5
Lithuania	-7.0	3.3	0.6
Netherlands	-4.7	4.6	-0.2
Poland	-9.5	7.5	2.3
Portugal	-17.3	10.3	-2.9
Romania	-12.1	9.8	-0.1
Spain	-7.5	5.3	-4.3

Source: Eurostat. No data available for Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden

Food and drink turnover by Member State

Member State	2020 Q2 / 2020 Q1 (% change)	2020 Q3 / 2020 Q2 (% change)	2020 Q3 / 2019 Q3 (% change)
EU	-10.1	5.9	-1.1
Austria	-11.2	9.7	1.8
Belgium	-10.4	5.2	-5.2
Bulgaria	-10.7	0.3	-0.5
Czech Republic	-8.6	7.7	2.9
Denmark	-8.6	3.1	0.0
Estonia	-10.5	6.0	-2.4
Finland	-6.3	5.6	0.0
France	-8.1	8.3	-0.2
Germany	-9.5	2.1	-1.8
Greece	-14.6	9.6	-4.7
Hungary	-13.1	8.1	1.1
Italy	-8.3	6.0	-0.4
Latvia	-8.6	2.5	-1.9
Lithuania	-9.4	8.8	7.6
Netherlands	-8.7	7.0	1.3
Poland	-8.9	6.8	4.5
Portugal	-14.0	8.1	-4.2
Romania	-17.3	14.2	2.6
Spain	-14.1	4.5	-5.6

Source: Eurostat. No data available for Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden

Employment in the EU food and drink industry

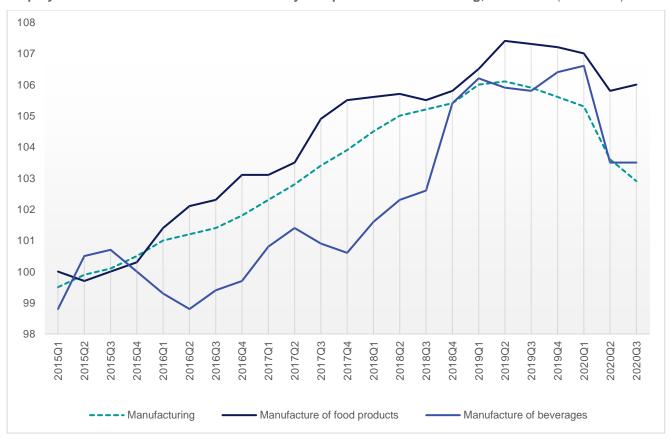
Employment index (2015=100)

Employment	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	у-о-у
Total manufacturing	105.9	105.6	105.3	103.6	102.9	
% change	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-1.6	-0.7	-2.8
Food industry	107.3	107.2	107.0	105.8	106.0	
% change	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-1.1	0.2	-1.2
Drink industry	105.8	106.4	106.6	103.5	103.5	
% change	-0.1	0.6	0.2	-2.9	0.0	-2.2

Source: Eurostat

The employment index measures the number of persons employed in the total manufacturing industry vs. the food and drink industry in the EU, seasonally adjusted.

Employment in the EU food and drink industry compared to manufacturing, 2015-2020 (2015=100)



Source: Eurostat

Food industry employment by Member State

Member State	2020 Q2 / 2020 Q1 (% change)	2020 Q3 / 2020 Q2 (% change)	2020 Q3 / 2019 Q3 (% change)
EU	-1.1	0.2	-1.2
Austria	-3.3	1.9	-1.4
Belgium	0.4	na	na
Bulgaria	-2.9	-0.3	-3.2
Croatia	-1.1	-1.3	-4.4
Czech Republic	-0.9	0.3	-1.6
Denmark	-1.1	0.1	-0.8
Estonia	-3.2	1.0	-3.5
Finland	-12.5	-1.6	-14.5
France	-0.6	-0.1	-0.7
Germany	-0.8	-0.2	-0.9
Greece	-0.3	0.7	0.8
Hungary	-2.3	1.8	-1.7
Ireland	5.8	-6.1	-1.3
Italy	0.0	2.0	2.3
Latvia	-0.5	2.0	1.6
Lithuania	-2.6	-0.6	-1.6
Netherlands	-1.5	na	na
Poland	-0.8	0.0	-0.4
Portugal	-3.5	-1.1	-4.4
Romania	-3.2	1.1	-4.4
Spain	-2.4	0.5	-3.1
Sweden	2.0	-2.9	-0.9

Source: Eurostat. No data available for Cyprus, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia

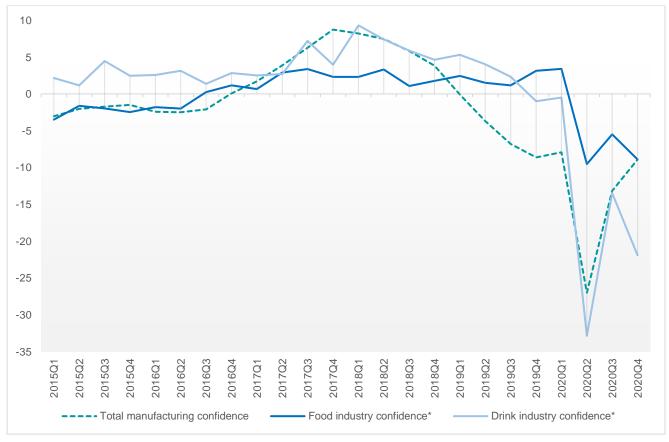
Drink industry employment by Member State

Member State	2020 Q2 / 2020 Q1 (% change)	2020 Q3 / 2020 Q2 (% change)	2020 Q3 / 2019 Q3 (% change)
EU	-2.9	0.0	-2.2
Austria	-1.2	-0.3	-0.1
Belgium	-0.2	na	na
Bulgaria	-4.1	-0.6	-7.7
Croatia	-3.1	-2.2	-6.7
Czech Republic	-3.3	0.0	-1.3
Denmark	-2.8	4.4	-1.0
Estonia	-5.1	2.9	1.2
France	-0.6	0.0	-0.6
Germany	-1.3	-0.9	-1.1
Greece	-1.5	-1.7	1.1
Hungary	-8.3	2.8	-7.1
Ireland	-22.9	-5.5	-30.9
Italy	-1.3	1.2	-5.3
Latvia	-3.9	6.5	-2.8
Lithuania	-3.6	0.1	-5.2
Netherlands	-2.4	na	na
Poland	-1.8	-1.2	-2.3
Portugal	-2.2	-1.3	-3.1
Romania	-2.1	1.4	0.0
Spain	-7.9	0.0	-3.5
Sweden	4.9	-1.4	3.3

Source: Eurostat. No data available for Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia

Confidence in the EU food and drink industry

EU quarterly manufacturing confidence indicators, 2015-2020



^{*} Subsector level data (i.e. the divisions of NACE rev.2 at the 2-digit level) for the industry have not undergone a full validation process, hence their use and interpretation deserve more caution.

Source: European Commission, DG ECFIN business survey data, own calculations

The confidence indicator is a statistical indicator based on the results from business surveys interrogating enterprises on their current economic situation and their expectations about future developments. The indicator is calculated as the simple arithmetic average of the seasonally adjusted balances of positive and negative answers to specific questions, e.g. regarding economic expectations.

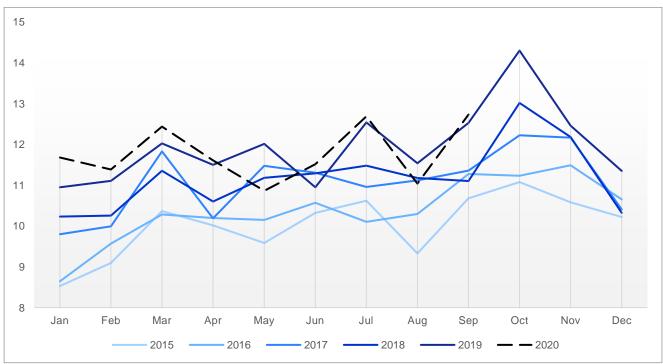
External trade

EU food and drink trade (€ billion)

	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	у-о-у
Exports	36.6	38.1	35.5	34.0	36.5	-0.4%
Imports	20.2	20.5	20.0	18.8	19.0	-5.6%
Balance	16.4	17.6	15.5	15.2	17.4	6.0%

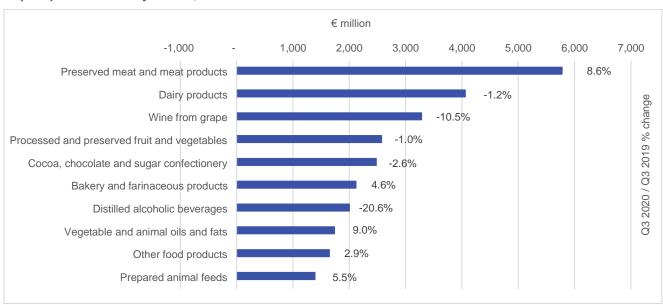
Source: Eurostat

EU food and drink exports, 2015-2020 (€ billion)



Source: Eurostat

Export performance by sector, Q3 2020



Source: Eurostat - COMEXT, Nace Rev.2, Divisions 10 & 11

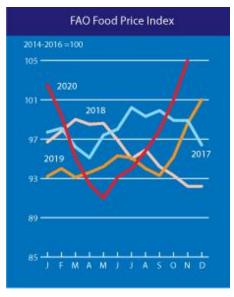
EU food and drink trade by sector

		Exports			Imports			Balance	
Sector / Period	Q3 2019	Q3 2020	change	Q3 2019	Q3 2020	change	Q3 2019	Q3 2020	change
	€ mi	llion	%	€ mi	llion	%	€ million		%
Food and drinks	36,610	36,455	-0.4%	20,156	19,019	-5.6%	16,453	17,435	6.0%
10 Food products	27,584	28,310	2.6%	18,168	17,172	-5.5%	9,416	11,137	18.3%
11 Beverages	9,026	8,145	-9.8%	1,989	1,847	-7.1%	7,037	6,298	-10.5%
101 Preserved meat and meat products	5,318	5,778	8.6%	1,781	1,507	-15.4%	3,538	4,271	20.7%
1011 Processed and preserved meat	3,337	3,889	16.5%	1,243	1,093	-12.1%	2,094	2,796	33.5%
1012 Processed and preserved poultry meat	808	718	-11.2%	204	157	-22.7%	605	560	-7.4%
1013 Meat and poultry meat products	1,173	1,172	-0.1%	334	257	-23.0%	839	915	9.0%
102 Processed and preserved fish, crustaceans and molluscs	1,274	1,179	-7.5%	4,755	4,161	-12.5%	-3,480	-2,982	-14.3%
103 Processed and preserved fruit and vegetables	2,601	2,574	-1.0%	2,088	2,090	0.1%	513	483	-5.7%
1031 Processed and preserved potatoes	626	575	-8.2%	46	46	-1.8%	580	530	-8.7%
1032 Fruit and vegetable juices	420	410	-2.4%	528	471	-10.8%	-108	-60	-43.9%
1039 Other processed and preserved fruit and vegetables	1,554	1,588	2.2%	1,514	1,574	4.0%	40	14	-64.8%
104 Vegetable and animal oils and fats	1,595	1,737	9.0%	3,927	3,835	-2.3%	-2,332	-2,097	-10.1%
1041 Oils and fats	1,441	1,587	10.1%	3,876	3,790	-2.2%	-2,434	-2,203	-9.5%
1042 Margarine and similar edible fats	153	151	-1.7%	51	44	-12.9%	102	106	3.9%
105 Dairy products	4,110	4,059	-1.2%	563	497	-11.7%	3,547	3,562	0.4%
1051 Dairy and cheese products	3,926	3,847	-2.0%	511	451	-11.8%	3,415	3,395	-0.6%
1052 Ice cream	184	212	15.4%	52	46	-10.5%	132	166	25.5%
106 Grain mill products, starches and starch products	1,114	1,067	-4.2%	624	671	7.6%	490	396	-19.2%
1061 Grain mill products	596	580	-2.6%	506	569	12.3%	90	12	-87.1%
1062 Starches and starch products	518	487	-6.0%	118	102	-13.0%	401	385	-3.9%
107 Bakery and farinaceous products	2,027	2,119	4.6%	378	356	-5.8%	1,649	1,763	6.9%
1071 Bread; fresh pastry goods and cakes	417	436	4.7%	86	73	-15.5%	331	364	9.9%
1072 Rusks and biscuits; preserved pastry goods and cakes	1,309	1,324	1.1%	270	261	-3.1%	1,040	1,062	2.2%
1073 Macaroni, noodles, couscous and similar farinaceous products	301	359	19.4%	22	22	-0.8%	279	337	21.0%
108 Other food products	8,095	8,231	1.7%	3,538	3,497	-1.2%	4,557	4,735	3.9%
1081 Sugar	142	145	2.1%	335	278	-17.0%	-193	-133	-31.1%
1082 Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	2,547	2,480	-2.6%	1,066	1,076	0.9%	1,481	1,404	-5.2%
1083 Processed tea and coffee	749	772	3.1%	637	661	3.7%	112	111	-0.5%
1084 Condiments and seasonings	585	664	13.5%	286	282	-1.4%	299	382	27.8%
1085 Prepared meals and dishes	1,220	1,268	3.9%	327	355	8.6%	893	913	2.2%
1086 Homogenised food preparations and dietetic food	1,251	1,257	0.4%	33	27	-17.1%	1,218	1,229	0.9%
1089 Other food products n.e.c.	1,600	1,646	2.9%	853	817	-4.2%	747	829	11.0%
109 Prepared animal feeds	1,320	1,392	5.5%	478	515	7.8%	842	878	4.2%
1091 Prepared feeds for farm animals	758	777	2.5%	210	173	-17.5%	548	604	10.2%
1092 Prepared pet foods	562	615	9.5%	268	342	27.5%	294	274	-6.9%
110 Beverages	9,026	8,145	-9.8%	1,989	1,847	-7.1%	7,037	6,298	-10.5%
1101 Distilled alcoholic beverages	2,521	2,001	-20.6%	935	796	-14.9%	1,586	1,205	-24.0%
1102 Wine from grape	3,671	3,284	-10.5%	437	474	8.4%	3,234	2,810	-13.1%
1103 Cider and other fruit wines	101	136	34.4%	17	13	-21.6%	84	123	45.7%
1104 Other non-distilled fermented beverages	50	50	0.5%	5	4	-29.7%	45	47	4.1%
1105 Beer	965	1,010	4.6%	164	147	-10.5%	801	863	7.7%
1106 Malt	229	223	-2.7%	8	5	-41.1%	221	218	-1.4%
1107 Soft drinks; mineral waters and other bottled waters	1,487	1,440	-3.2%	422	408	-3.2%	1,066	1,032	-3.2%

Source: Eurostat - COMEXT, Nace Rev.2, Divisions 10 & 11

Prices of agricultural commodities

FAO Food Price Index





Source: FAO Food Price Index

Main agricultural commodity prices

Agricultural		EU		WORLD				
commodity	Q3 2020 average	Q3 2020/ Q2 2020	Q3 2020/ Q3 2019	Q3 2020 average	Q3 2020/ Q2 2020	Q3 2020/ Q3 2019		
	EUR/T	% change	% change	EUR/T	% change	% change		
CEREALS								
Maize	170	2.2	3.4	133	-0.2	-11.7		
Soft wheat	173	-6.9	3.4	182	-5.3	2.4		
SMP	2119	4.3	0.7	2389	2.0	3.5		
WMP	2742	2.1	-4.8	2605	3.6	-6.6		
White sugar*	na	na	na	312	-3.0	9.6		
				USD/T	% change	% change		
OILS AND OIL C	ROPS							
Soybean oil				865	22.7	11.8		
Soybean				396	9.3	8.5		
Soybean meal				380	8.5	11.7		
Rapeseed				445	7.8	5.8		
Rape oil				921	14.2	5.9		
Palm oil				750	22.7	31.6		
COFFEE AND CO	COA							
Cocoa				2,303	1.4	-0.1		
Coffee				2,460	7.1	12.8		

* EU white sugar prices for EU28

Sources: World prices: FAO (cereals), CIAL (dairy), USDA (sugar); EU prices: DG AGRI; own calculations

Retail trade

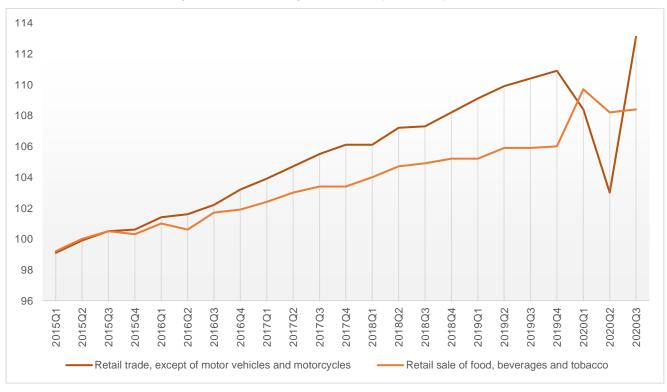
Retail sales index (2015=100)

	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	у-о-у
Total retail trade	110.4	110.9	108.4	103.0	113.1	
% change	0.5	0.5	-2.3	-5.0	9.8	2.4
Food, drinks and tobacco	105.9	106.0	109.7	108.2	108.4	
% change	0.0	0.1	3.5	-1.4	0.2	2.4

Source: Eurostat

The index of the volume of retail trade measures the evolution of the turnover in retail trade, adjusted for price changes (deflated), i.e. the evolution of the total amount of goods sold, based on data adjusted for calendar and seasonal effects.

EU turnover in retail trade by economic activity, 2015-2020 (2015=100)

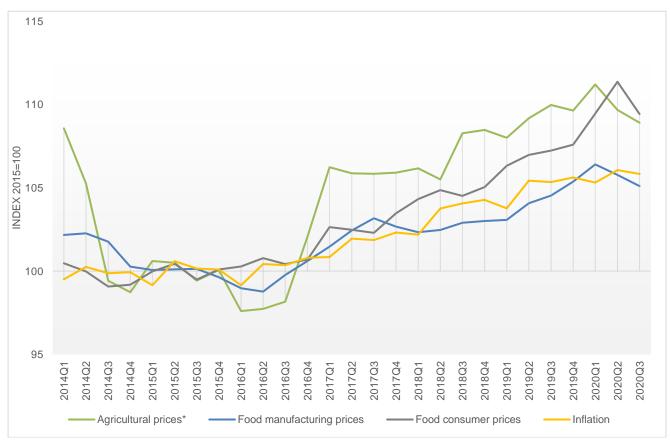


Source: Eurostat

Price developments along the EU food chain

Price developments (% change)

	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	у-о-у
Agricultural prices*	0.7	-0.3	1.4	-1.4	-0.7	-1.0
Food manufacturing prices	0.4	0.8	1.0	-0.6	-0.6	0.5
Food consumer prices	0.2	0.3	1.7	1.7	-1.7	2.0
Inflation	-0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.7	-0.2	0.5



^{*} EU farmer price indices are not available before January 2015. Before this date, the monthly change is estimated based on Member States data weighted by their share in the agricultural output. Latest Eurostat monthly indices for EU farmer prices are available in June 2020. Since this date, the index is estimated based on cereals, sugar, milk, meat, tomatoes and apples monthly prices weighted by annual production (updated by the latest edition of short-term outlook: https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/facts-and-figures/markets/outlook/short-term_en).

Sources: Eurostat and DG Agriculture and Rural Development; own calculations

EU food and drink industry figures

Turnover

€1,205 billion

Largest manufacturing sector

Employment

4.82 million people

Leading employer in the EU

Value added

1.9%

of EU gross value added

Number of companies

291,000

Consumption

20.7%

of household expenditure on food and drinks

R&D expenditure

€2.9 billion

Sales within the Single Market

91%

of food and drink turnover

Small and medium-sized companies

42.7%

of food and drink turnover

58.1%

of food and drink employment

External trade

€120 billion

Exports

€76 billion

€44 billion Trade balance

18.8%

EU share of global exports

Sources: Eurostat: Joint Research Centre: UN COMTRADE



Source: FoodDrinkEurope - Data & Trends of the European Food and Drink Industry 2020. Full report available here.