

## FoodDrinkEurope launches latest Data & Trends in the European food and drink industry

**(Brussels, 11 October 2018)** FoodDrinkEurope's latest Data & Trends report has just been published, highlighting key figures and providing insights on the food and drink industry's structure and economic performance.

Europe's food and drink industry means: 4.57 million people employed throughout the EU, a turnover of €1.1 trillion and €230 billion in value added, which make it the largest manufacturing industry in the EU. In half of the EU's 28 Member States, the food and drink industry is the biggest employer within manufacturing.

The Data & Trends report also provides an outlook on markets. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of EU food and drink exports are destined to the Single Market. At the same time, the EU is the largest exporter of food and drink products in the world. In 2017, extra-EU exports reached €110 billion, with a trade surplus of €35 billion. Finally, the report includes a ranking of the top-50 food and drink companies.

Despite these bright results, the industry faces a number of challenges: the growing share of costs compared to turnover leaves less room for generating value added, making it difficult for food and drink companies to invest and to increase Research and Development (R&D) spending. As a result, the EU food and drink industry has a lower R&D investment intensity compared to several food and drink industries worldwide.

This report is one of FoodDrinkEurope's most successful and longest-running publications and presents, in a visually-engaging way, the industry's key contribution to Europe's economy. In this year's edition, special focus is given on Brexit, investment & wages and the importance of the bioeconomy.

### Recent developments in the EU food and drink industry

	2015	2016	% change
Turnover (€ billion)	1,115	1,109	-0.5
Value added (€ billion)	230	-	-
Number of persons employed (million)	4.51	4.57	+1.3
Number of companies (1,000 units)	293	294	+0.4

Source: Eurostat (SBS)

You can download the report [here](#).

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*FoodDrinkEurope is the organisation of Europe's food and drink industry, the largest manufacturing sector and leading employer in the EU and a key contributor to its economy (294,000 companies, 99% SMEs, 4.6 million employees).*