



Issue | September 2024

NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

With 388 notifications, the number of new RASFF notifications on Safefood-Online has changed only marginally compared to the previous month of August. You can find the evaluations under point 1.

Under point 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants", we would like to inform you about the results on acrylamide as part of the German BfR-Meal-Study. The EU-Commission is working on a regulation for hydroxyanthracene derivatives in certain herbal preparations. On EU-level there are new maximum limits for nickel

News on the topics of food safety and food fraud can be found under points 3 and 4.

The European Commission has published the [report on the overall operation of official controls carried out in Member States \(2022\) to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare,](#)

plant health and plant protection product.

The national authorities carried out around 5 million official controls. In the process, 1,2 million non-compliance issues have been identified, leading to about 475.000 administrative penalties and 12.000 legal actions. imposition of around 475,000 administrative sanctions and 12,000 criminal proceedings. In 2022, the EU Commission carried out 120 audits of national official control measures:

Art des Audits	Vollständiges Fernaudit	Teilweises Fernaudit	Vor Ort
Audit	7	60	3
Analyse von Unterlagen	27		
Sondierung	4	1	9
Allgemeines nachfassendes Audit	4	3	2

Source: Report from the Commission on the overall operation of official controls carried out in Member States (2022)

For further information, please refer to the Commission's report.

According to the German Robert Koch Institute (RKI), there are indications of rucola as a possible source in connection with illnesses caused by the rare Salmonella serotype, Salmonella Umbilo ([Epidemiological Bulletin 39/2024, page 16](#)).

We hope that also this issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter is interesting for you and we are of course looking forward to your opinion.

Your Safefood-Online Team

1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: September 2024

Compared to August, the number of new RASFF notifications on Safefood-Online has changed only slightly:

- **September 2024:** 338
- August 2024: 331
- July 2024: 449

The notifications from September 2024 are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 102
- Border rejections: 78
- Information messages: 158

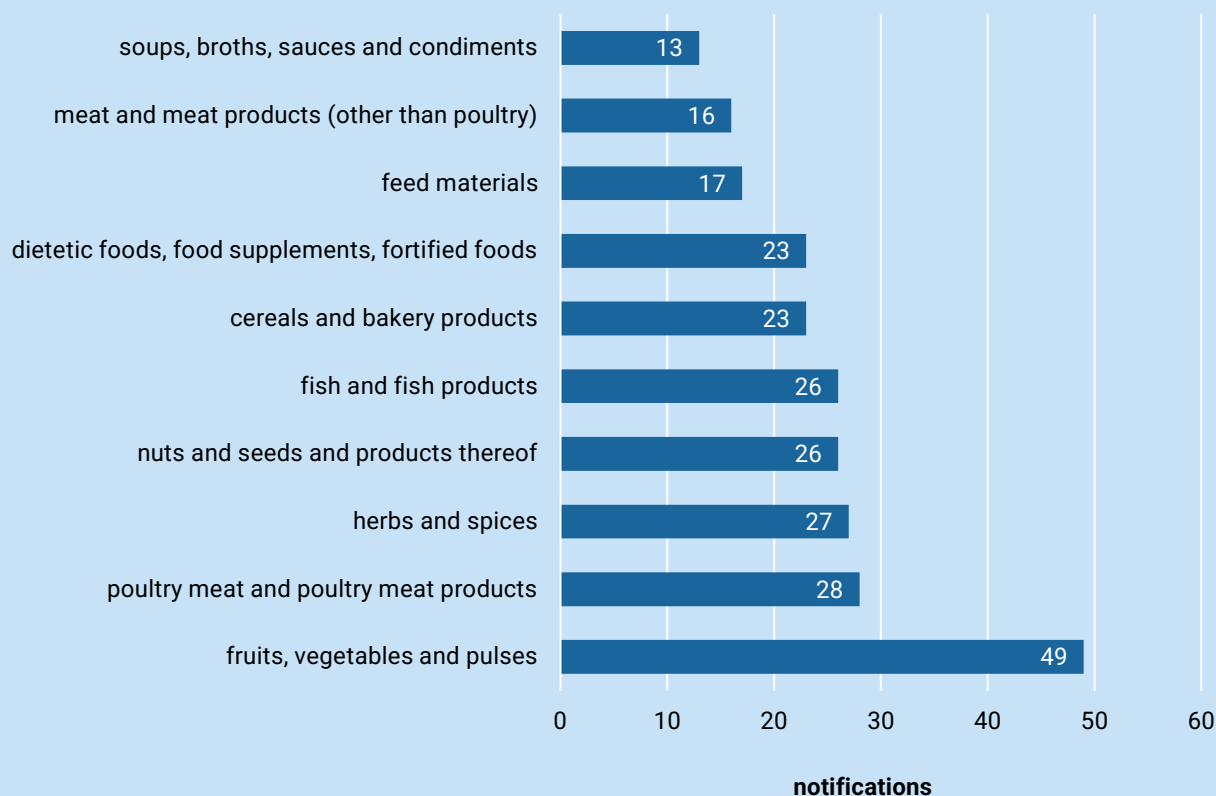


Note:

Only the RASFF notifications are included in the comparison, as the notifications from the EU Monthly Food Fraud Summary Report are not published until the middle of the following month.

In September, the category fruit, vegetables and pulses was again in first place with 49 notifications. 25 notifications were due to pesticide residues. The product category poultry meat and poultry meat products followed in second place with 28 notifications, including 23 notifications due to pathogenic micro-organisms (salmonella). The product category herbs and spices follows in third place with 27 notifications. Here, chlorpyrifos was found in 13 notifications and pyrrolizidine alkaloids in 5 notifications:

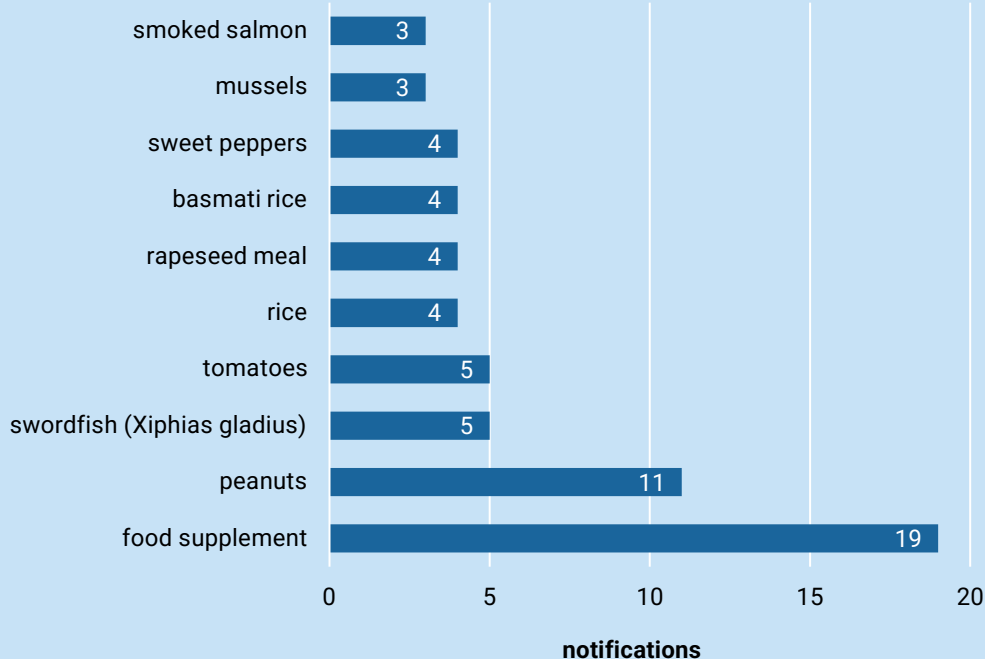
RASFF-notifications September 2024: Top 10 product groups



1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: September 2024

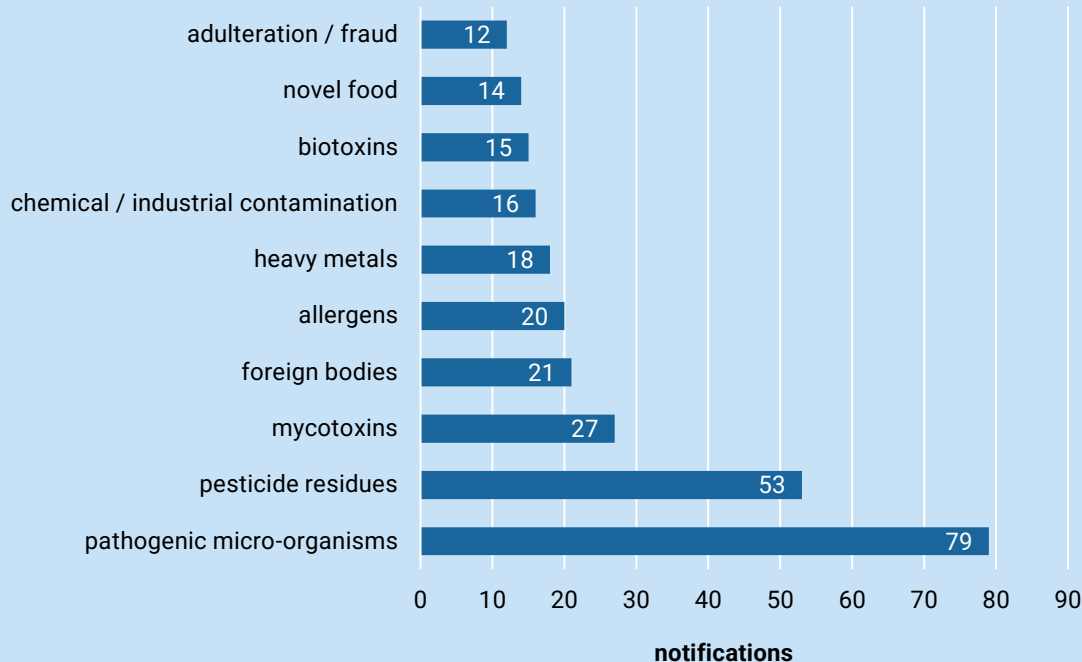
In September, food supplements ranked first in the evaluation by product with 19 notifications, followed by peanuts and swordfish with 11 and 5 notifications:

RASFF-notifications September 2024: top 10 products



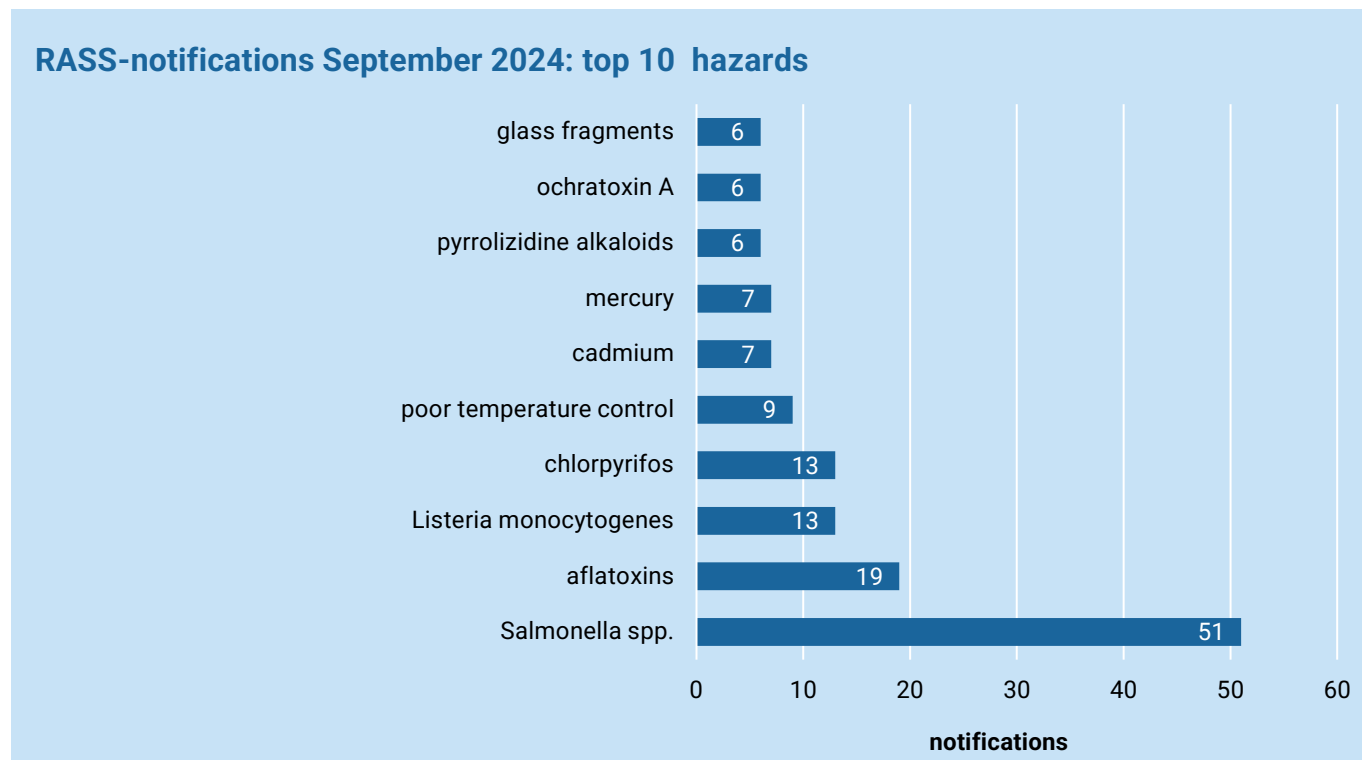
In the evaluation by hazard category, pathogenic micro-organisms were in first place with 79 notifications, followed by pesticides with 53 notifications (13 of which were due to chlorpyrifos findings). Mycotoxins are in third place with 27 notifications:

RASFF-notifications September 2024: Top 10 hazard categories

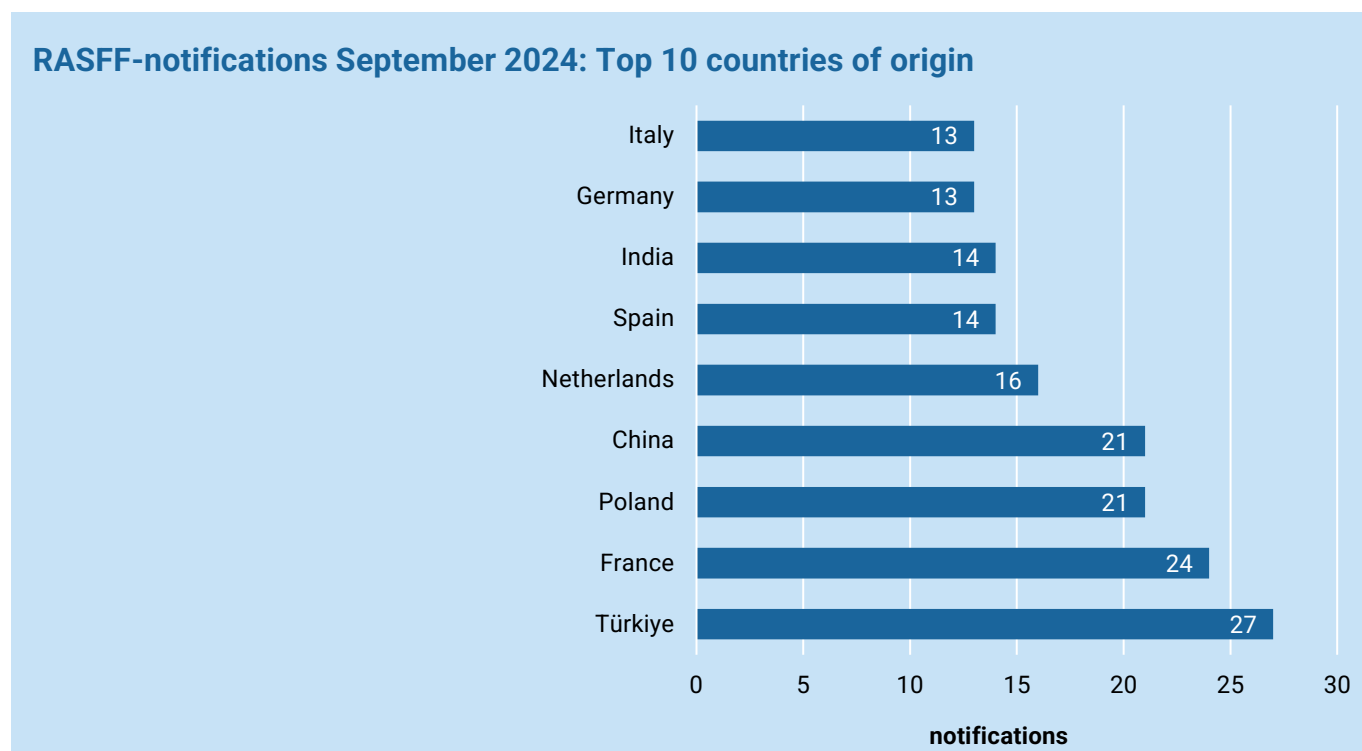


1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: September 2024

In terms of hazards, Salmonella are in first place with 51 notifications, followed by aflatoxins with 19 notifications (including 11 notifications on peanuts and 2 notifications on pistachios and dried figs). Listeria monocytogenes is in third place with 13 notifications:



Finally, the evaluation of the notifications according to the country of origin of the products:



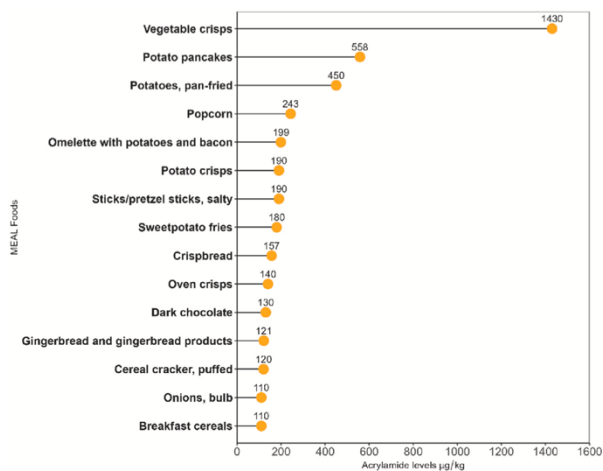
Türkiye is in first place with 27 notifications, followed by France and Poland with 24 and 21 notifications respectively.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



German BfR-Meal-Study: High acrylamide levels detected in vegetable

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has investigated the acrylamide content in various foods



as part of the BfR Meal Study (meals for exposure assessment and analysis of foods). The highest levels were found in vegetable chips at 1430 µg/kg:

The German BfR published on September 16, a communication: "BfR MEAL study: High acrylamide levels detected in vegetable crisps". More information and also the detailed results are available in the report „**Results of the BfR Meal Study: Acrylamide in foods from the German market with highest levels in vegetable crisps**".

Herbal preparations containing hydroxyanthracene derivatives

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published in May 2024 a **scientific opinion on hydroxyanthracene derivatives** and concluded that there are concerns regarding genotoxicity.

The EU Commission has now published a **draft regulation** with the aim of prohibiting preparations of:

- Bark of *Rhamnus frangula*
- leaves or fruits of *Cassia senna*
- Root or rhizome of *Rheum palmatum*, *Rheum officinale* and their hybrids,

containing hydroxyanthracene derivatives.

Maximum levels for nickel

Regulation (EU) 2024/1987 established maximum levels for nickel in particular for:

- Tree nuts
- "Vegetables"
- fresh herbs
- Legumes
- Oilseeds (sunflower seeds, peanuts, soybeans)
- Chocolate and cocoa powder
- Infant formulae, follow-on formulae, food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children and young-child formulae
- Fruit juices, fruit nectars and vegetable juices (for infants and young children)
- Fruit juices, fruit nectars and vegetable juices (except for infants and young children)

laid down in Regulation (EU) 2023/915 "Contaminants Regulation"). The regulation came into force on August 20, 2024 and will apply from July 1, 2025. The maximum levels for nickel will also apply from July 1, 2025 (except for durum wheat, rice, pseudo-cereals, millet and oats: here the new maximum levels will apply from July 1, 2026). Foodstuffs that were lawfully placed on the market before these dates may remain on the market until their date of minimum durability or use-by date.



Food Safety

- 🕒 Australia: Yersinia outbreak linked to milkshakes
- 🕒 UK: investment needed to protect UK food and drink security
- 🕒 Food Risk Assess Europe: The future of food safety: possible trends for the years 2022-2032 and their influence on food safety and nutrition
- 🕒 Lithuania: Company suspended after refusal to allow inspectors on site
- 🕒 Several people are suspected to have developed botulism after eating pesto in France
- 🕒 New Zealand: Annual report concerning Foodborne Diseases 2023
- 🕒 Review of New Approach Methodologies for Application in Risk Assessment of Nanoparticles in the Food and Feed Sector: Status and Challenges
- 🕒 German BfR: STEC/EHEC infections from food: recognising and preventing risks
- 🕒 German BfR: Ashwagandha: food supplements with potential health risks Especially children, pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and people with liver disease should avoid them
- 🕒 EU-Commission: Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture
- 🕒 EFSA: Technical Report on the need for re-evaluation of the safety of hexane used as an extraction solvent in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients
- 🕒 German BfR: Noroviruses – recognizing and avoiding sources of infection
- 🕒 Salmonella Umbilo, a rare type, sickens people in Denmark and Austria
- 🕒 Türkiye: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is set to resume its initiative to publicly expose companies involved in food fraud, including those engaging in product adulteration and counterfeiting.
- 🕒 European food businesses call for rigorous labelling of new GMOs



Food Fraud

- 🕒 The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is launching a crackdown on food adulteration in light of the increasing adulteration of palm oil with the Sudan-4 dye
- 🕒 Scotland's food agency has again warned consumers to be vigilant after finding more counterfeit vodka
- 🕒 UK: Report of the UK Food Crime Strategic assessment (FCSA) 2024 regarding food fraud
- 🕒 Spain: counterfeit organic fruit products were sold throughout Europe for several months
- 🕒 Codex Alimentarius Commission: Draft guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud
- 🕒 Food authenticity and the interactions with human health and climate change
- 🕒 Operations at a company in Lithuania have been suspended after food agency inspectors were denied entry to the premises during an inspection
- 🕒 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud suspicions August 2024

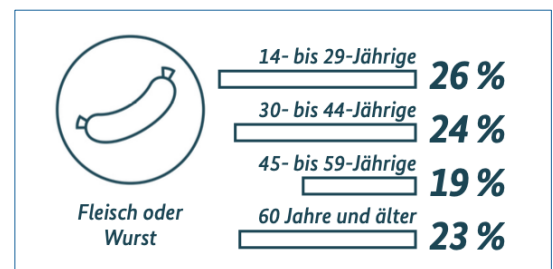
Nutrition report 2024 from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture



Source: Nutrition report 2024 from the German Federal Ministry of food and agriculture

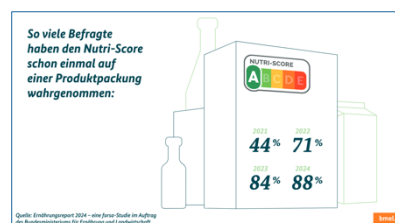
In October 2015 (for the 2016 Nutrition Report), citizens in Germany were asked on behalf of the BMEL what is important to them when eating and what they pay attention to when shopping and cooking every day. In May 2024, the market and opinion research institute forsa again surveyed 1000 citizens. Federal Minister Özdemir has now presented the **2024 Nutrition Report at a press conference**.

The survey showed that the proportion of people who eat meat every day has risen slightly from 20% last year to 23% and that 14 to 29-year-olds eat more meat than, for example, 45 to 59-year-olds.



Source: Nutrition report 2024 from the German Federal Ministry of food and agriculture

In the younger age group, the proportion has risen from 17% in the previous year's survey to 26%.



Around 88% of respondents were aware of the Nutri-Score. However, only 37% stated that the Nutri-Score also influences their purchasing decision.

When asked what is decisive when choosing food, 94% of respondents said: I buy what tastes good. 70% of respondents attach importance to food being fairly traded or organically produced. In answering this question, it seems to be the desire rather than the actual purchasing behaviour that is decisive: In its **2024 industry report**, the German Federation of Organic Agriculture gives the organic sales share for Germany as 6.3% in an overview of organic sales in Europe by country for 2022. All results of the forsa survey can be found [here](#).



Feedback

Please forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:
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