

Media release February 13, 2019

European organic market grew to more than 37 billion euros in 2017

The organic market in Europe continues to grow. In 2017, it increased by almost 11 percent and reached 37.3 billion euros. Many of the major markets enjoyed double-digit growth rates. At BIOFACH, the world's leading trade fair for organic food, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), the Agricultural Market Information Company (AMI) and partners are presenting the 2017 data of the European organic sector (February 13, 2019 from 5 to 6:00 pm at BIOFACH in Nuremberg, Hall Shanghai).

(Frick/Nuremberg, February 13, 2019) In 2017, the European organic sector experienced strong growth in terms of area, producers, and markets.

Almost 15 million hectares of farmland are organic in Europe – Spain has the largest area

In Europe, 14.6 million hectares were organic in 2017 (European Union: 12.8 million hectares). With 2.1 million hectares, Spain continues to be the country with the largest organic area in Europe, followed by Italy (1.9 million hectares), and France (1.7 million hectares).

Organic farmland increased by almost one million hectares

The organic land increased by one million hectares in Europe and by 0.8 million hectares in the European Union, representing an increase of 7.6 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively. Growth was higher than in the first years of the current decade. Russia reported over 300'000 hectares more than in 2016, and France reported over 200'000 hectares more.

Liechtenstein is the country with the highest organic share of the total farmland in the world

Organic farmland in Europe constituted 2.9 percent of the total agricultural land and 7.2 percent in the European Union. In Europe (and globally), Liechtenstein had the highest organic share of all farmland (37.9 percent) followed by Austria, the country in the European Union with the highest organic share (24.0 percent). Ten European countries reported that at least 10 percent of their farmland is organic.

Organic producers on the rise

There were almost 400'000 organic producers in Europe (European Union: almost 310'000), and the largest numbers were in Turkey (more than 75'000) and Italy (more than 68'000). The number of producers grew by almost 7 percent in Europe (almost 4 percent in the European Union) in 2017.

Strong growth of processors and importers

There were more than 71'000 processors in Europe and more than 68'000 in the European Union. More than 5'300 importers were counted in Europe and almost 4'600 in the European Union. Particularly strong growth was noted for importers, which increased by double digits. The country with the largest number of processors was Italy (more than 18'000), while Germany had the most importers (almost 1'700).

Retail sales surpass the 37 billion euro mark

Retail sales in Europe were valued at 37.3 billion euros (34.3 billion euros in the European Union). The largest market was Germany (10 billion euros). The European Union represents the second largest single market for organic products in the world after the United States (40 billion euros).

Double-digit growth rates of retail sales in 2017

The European market recorded a growth rate of almost 11 percent, which is the third time retail sales have had a double-digit growth rate since the financial crisis. Among the key markets, the highest growth was observed in France (18 percent). In the decade 2008-2017, the value of the European and European Union markets has more than doubled.

European consumers spend more on organic food

In Europe, consumers spent 47 euros on organic food per person annually (European Union: 67 euros). Per capita consumer spending on organic food has doubled in the last decade. The Swiss spent the most money on organic food (288 euros per capita in 2017).

Denmark has the highest organic market share in the world

Globally, European countries account for the highest shares of organic food sales as a percentage of their respective food markets. Denmark is the first country to surpass the ten percent mark and has the highest organic share (13.3 percent) worldwide.

Individual products and product groups hold even higher shares. Organic eggs, for instance, reach around 30 percent of the value of all eggs sold in some countries.

The survey on organic farming in Europe was conducted by FiBL and AMI. The FiBL data collection was carried out under the framework of the global survey on organic farming supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Coop Sustainability Fund, NürnbergMesse, and IFOAM – Organics International.

Further information

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Download, infographics and online databases

- Download “The World of Organic Agriculture 2019”: www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2019/pdf.html
- Infographics: <http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2019/infographics.html>
- FiBL statistics on organic agriculture worldwide <https://statistics.fibl.org>.

Links

- fibl.org: Website of FiBL, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
- ami-informiert.de: Website of AMI, the Agricultural Market Information Company
- biofach.de: Website of BIOFACH

Organic in Europe at BIOFACH

The yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture” can be obtained at BIOFACH at the FiBL stand in Hall 1 (stand 553). The book includes a detailed chapter about organic in Europe, with many tables and graphs.

The BIOFACH session on the European organic market takes place on February 13, 2019, from 5 to 5:45 pm in hall Shanghai, NCC East, Nürnberg Exhibition Centre. (For programme see below).

Programme of the session “The European market for organic food” at BIOFACH 2019

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 5:00 to 5:45 pm, Hall Shanghai (NCC East),
NürnbergMesse, Nuremberg

- Dr. Susanne Padel, The Organic Research Centre, UK, Moderator
- Dr. Helga Willer, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Switzerland
- Diana Schaack, Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft mbH (AMI), Germany

- Dorian Flechet, Agence Bio, France
- Clare Mc Dermott, Soil Association, UK
- Dr. Francesco Solfanelli, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy

More information at www.biofach.fibl.org/en/biofach-2019.html

This media release online

This media release and pictures can be accessed online at www.fibl.org/en/media.html.

About FiBL

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) is one of the world's leading institutes in the field of organic agriculture. FiBL's strengths lie in its interdisciplinary research, innovations developed jointly with farmers and the food industry, and rapid knowledge transfer. FiBL employs some 300 staff at its various locations.

- Homepage: www.fibl.org
- Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=U84NrJlORFc

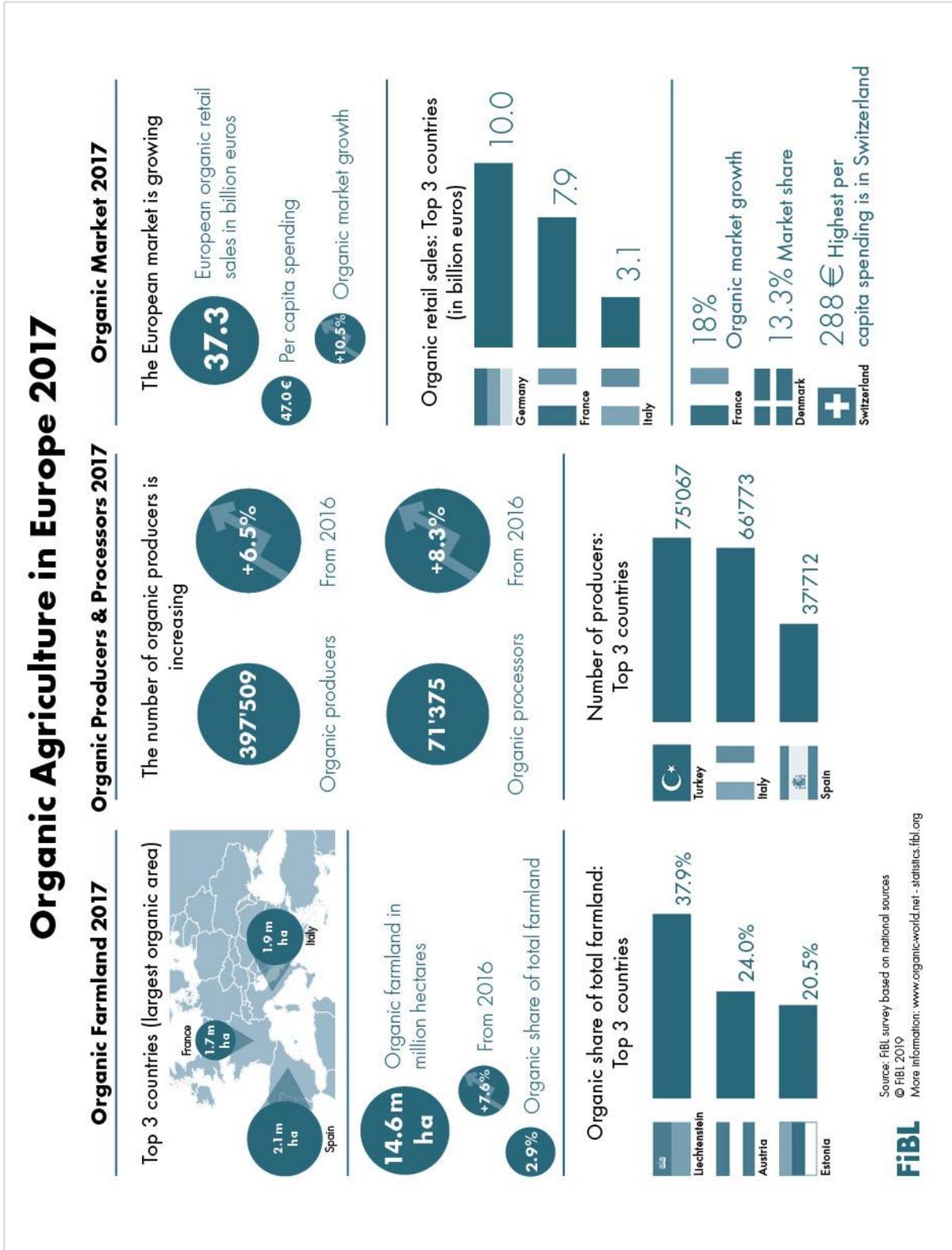
Europe and the European Union: Key indicators 2017

Table 1: Europe and the European Union: Key indicators 2017

Indicator	Europe	European Union	Top 3 countries Europe
Organic farmland in hectares	14.6 million ha	12.8 million ha	Spain (2.1 million ha) Italy (1.9 million ha) France (1.7 million ha)
Organic share of total farmland	2.9 %	7.2 %	Liechtenstein (37.9%) Austria (24.0%) Estonia (20.5%)
Increase in organic farmland 2016-2017 in hectares	1.0 million ha	0.8 million ha	Russia (+341'778 ha) France (+206'373 ha) Germany (+121'837ha)
Relative increase in organic farmland 2016-2017	7.6%	6.4%	Russia (+108 %) Malta (+80%) Bosnia and Herzegovina (+28%)
Land use [in million hectares]	Arable crops: 6.8 Permanent crops: 1.6 Permanent pastures: 5.9	Arable crops: 5.5 Permanent crops 1.4 Permanent pastures: 5.7	
Top arable crop groups	Cereals: 2.5 million ha Green fodder: 2.4 million ha Oilseeds: 0.4 million ha	Green fodder: 2.2 million ha Cereals: 2.0 million ha Dry pules: 0.4 million ha	Largest arable areas: France (0.9 million ha) Italy (0.8 million ha) Russia (0.6 million ha)
Top permanent crop groups	Olives: 0.6 million ha Grapes: 0.3 million ha Nuts: 0.3 million ha	Olives: 0.5 million ha Grapes: 0.3 million ha Nuts: 0.3 million ha	Largest permanent crop areas: Spain (0.5 million ha) Italy (0.5 million ha) Turkey (0.2 million ha)
Wild collection area	18.0 million ha	14.7 million ha	Finland (11.6 million ha) Romania (1.8 million ha; 2014) Macedonia, FYR (1.2 million ha)
Producers [no.]	397'509	305'394	Turkey: (75'067) Italy (66'773) Spain (37'712)
Processors [no.]	71'375	68'164	Italy (18'092) Germany (15'0191) France (14'859)
Importers [no.]	5'314	4'585	Germany (1'692) Switzerland (548) Netherlands (385)
Retail sales	37.3 billion euros	34.3 billion euros	Germany (10'040 million euros) France (7'921 million euros) Italy (3'137 million euros)
Growth of retail sales 2016-2017	10.5%	10.9%	France (18 %) Spain (16 %) Denmark, Liechtenstein (15%)
Organic share of total market	No data	No data	Denmark (13.3 %) Sweden (9.1%) Switzerland (9.0 %)
Per capita consumption [euros]	47 euros	67 euros	Switzerland (288 euros); Denmark (278 euros) Sweden (237 euros)

Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2019.

Infographics



Organic Agriculture in the European Union 2017

Organic Farmland 2017

Top 3 countries (largest organic area)

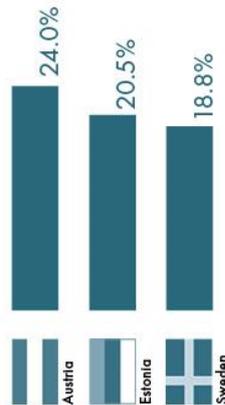


12.8 m ha
Organic farmland in million hectares

+6.4%
From 2016

7.2%
Organic share of total farmland

Organic share of total farmland:
Top 3 countries



Organic Producers & Processors 2017

The number of organic producers is increasing

305'394
Organic producers

+3.5%
From 2016

Organic producers

68'164
Organic processors

+8.8%
From 2016

Organic processors

Number of producers:
Top 3 countries



Organic Market 2017

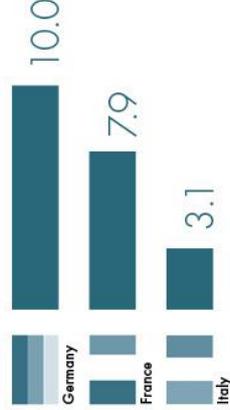
The European market is growing

34.3
EU organic retail sales in billion euros

67.2 €
Per capita spending

+10.9%
Organic market growth

Organic retail sales: Top 3 countries (in billion euros)

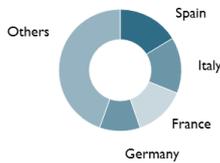


Source: FiBL survey based on national sources
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More information: www.organic-world.net - statistics.fibl.org

EUROPE: ORGANIC FARMLAND 2017



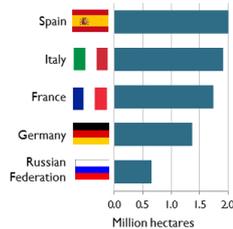
Over half of Europe's organic farmland is in 4 countries.



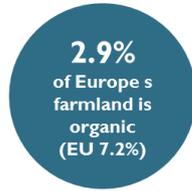
Distribution of organic agricultural land by country 2017



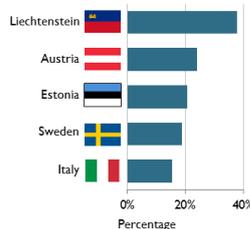
The country with the largest area of organic farmland is in Spain, followed by Italy and France.



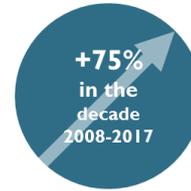
Top 5 countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2017



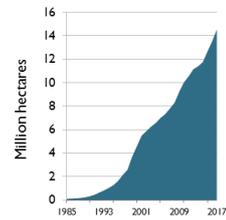
Ten countries have 10% or more of their agricultural land under organic management.



Top 5 countries, where more than 10 percent of the farmland is organic 2017



In 2017 over one million hectares more were reported compared with 2016.



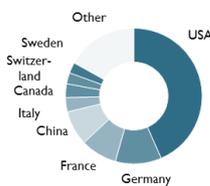
Growth of the organic agricultural land 1985-2017

Source: FiBL survey 2019 www.organic-world.net

EUROPE: ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2017



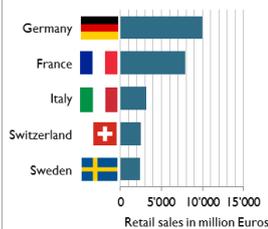
The European Union (34.3 billion €) is the second largest single market after the US (40 billion) and China. By region, North America has the lead (43 billion €), followed by Europe and Asia.



Distribution of retail sales value worldwide by country 2017



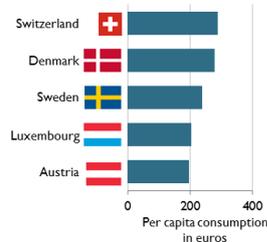
The European countries with the largest markets for organic food are Germany, France (7.9 billion €), Italy (3.1 billion €), and Switzerland (2.4 billion €).



The countries with the largest markets for organic food 2017



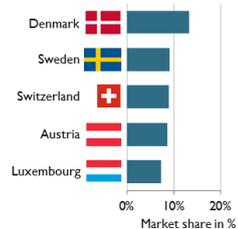
Switzerland has the highest per capita consumption of organic food worldwide, followed by Denmark and Sweden.



The countries with the highest per capita consumption of organic food 2017



The highest organic share of the total market is in Denmark, followed by Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, and Luxembourg.



The countries with the highest organic shares of the total market 2017

Source: FiBL survey 2019 www.organic-world.net