

Media release, 15 February 2022

## **Exceptional growth of the European organic market 2020**

### **Organic market reaches 52 billion euros and organic farmland 17 million hectares in 2020**

**The European organic market reached a record high in 2020. It increased by 15 percent and reached €52.0 billion, the highest growth rate in the past decade. The organic farmland continued to grow, too. The latest data are shown in the statistical yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture 2022”, which will be launched on Tuesday, 15 February 2022, from 12 to 1 pm (CET).**

In 2020, 17.1 million hectares of farmland in Europe were organic (European Union: 14.9 million hectares). With almost 2.5 million hectares, France became the new number one country in terms of farmland under organic management, followed by Spain (2.4 million hectares), Italy (2.1 million hectares) and Germany (1.7 million hectares).

#### **Organic farmland increases by 0.7 million hectares**

Organic farmland increased by over 0.7 million hectares in the European Union, representing an increase of 5.3 percent. Growth was, however, lower than in the previous year. France reported 307'000 hectares more than in 2019, Italy had over 102'000 hectares more, and Germany had over 88'000 hectares more.

#### **Liechtenstein has the highest organic share of the total farmland in the world**

In 2020, organic farmland in Europe constituted 3.4 percent of the total agricultural land and 9.2 percent in the European Union. In Europe (and globally), Liechtenstein had the highest organic share of all farmland (41.6 percent), followed by Austria, the country in the European Union with the highest organic share (26.5 percent). Fifteen European countries reported that at least 10 percent of their farmland is organic.

#### **Organic producers, processors and importers: Modest growth**

There were almost 420'000 organic producers in Europe and almost 350'000 in the European Union. Italy had the largest number (71'590).

There were 84'799 processors in Europe and over 78'000 in the European Union. Over 6'800 importers were counted in Europe and almost 5'800 in the European Union. The country with the largest number of processors was Italy (nearly 23'000), while Germany had the most importers (more than 1'900).

## **Retail sales reach €52.0 billion**

Retail sales in Europe were valued at € 52.0 billion (€ 44.8 billion in the European Union). The largest market was Germany (€14.99 billion). The European Union represents the second largest single market for organic products globally after the United States (€ 49.5 billion).

## **Record growth of retail sales in 2020**

The European market reached a record growth rate of 14.9 percent, the highest in the last decade. Among the key markets, the highest growth was observed in Germany (22.3 percent). In 2020, the organic markets in many countries exhibited double-digit growth due to the pandemic as people stayed home and began to cook more often. Health, environment and climate change have become important issues. If this trend continues, production and processing have to keep pace. The Farm to Fork strategy of the European Union can support this development with respective measures.

## **European consumers spend more on organic food**

In Europe, consumers spent € 63.3 on organic food per person annually (European Union: € 101.8). Per capita, consumer spending on organic food has doubled in the last decade. In 2020, Swiss and Danish consumers spent the most on organic food (€ 418 and € 384 per capita, respectively).

## **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 has the highest organic food sales share worldwide, with 13.0 percent in 2020, followed by Austria with a share of 11.3 percent and Switzerland with 10.3 percent.

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

## **Further information**

### **Contacts**

For questions about organic data:

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Phone +49 228 33805-0, [diana.schaack@ami-informiert.de](mailto:diana.schaack@ami-informiert.de)

## Download, infographics and online databases

- Download “The World of Organic Agriculture 2022”  
[www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2022.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2022.html)
- Infographics  
[www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2022/infographics.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2022/infographics.html)
- FiBL statistics on organic agriculture worldwide  
[statistics.fibl.org](http://statistics.fibl.org)

## Links

- [www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org): Website of FiBL, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
- [www.ami-informiert.de](http://www.ami-informiert.de): Website of AMI, the Agricultural Market Information Company
- [www.biofach.de](http://www.biofach.de): Website of BIOFACH

## “The World of Organic Agriculture – Statistics and Emerging Trends” on February 15, 2022 (online) – Joint session of FiBL, IFOAM – Organics International and the BIOFACH organic trade fair.

Tuesday, 15 February 2022, 12:00 to 1:00 pm CET

- Louise Luttkholt, IFOAM – Organics International: Introduction and presentation of program and speakers, Moderator
- Dr. Helga Willer, FiBL: Overview on global figures, importance of statistics
- Xhona Hysa, IFOAM – Organics International: Global overview on policies and regulations
- Eduardo Cuoco, IFOAM Organics Europe: Developments in Europe, linking market figures to policies
- Amarjit Sahota, Ecovia Intelligence, UK: The global market for organic food

**Registration:** [www.biofach.de/registration-sneak](http://www.biofach.de/registration-sneak)

**More information:** [https://www.biofach.de/en/news/press-releases/2022-invitation-biofach-organic-sector-review-qwwxapi2wr\\_pireport](https://www.biofach.de/en/news/press-releases/2022-invitation-biofach-organic-sector-review-qwwxapi2wr_pireport)

## This media release online

This media release and infographics can be accessed online at <https://www.fibl.org/en/info-centre/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. The FiBL Group currently includes FiBL Switzerland (founded in 1973), FiBL Germany (2001), FiBL Austria (2004), ÖMKi (Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, 2011), FiBL France (2017) and FiBL Europe (2017), which is jointly supported by the five national institutes. FiBL employs some 300 staff at its various locations.

[www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)

# Organic Agriculture in the European Union 2020

## Organic Farmland



## Organic Producers

The number of organic producers is increasing

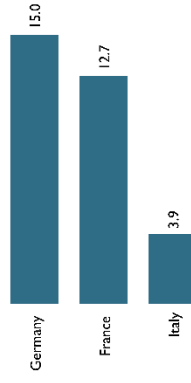


## Organic Market

The European Union market is growing



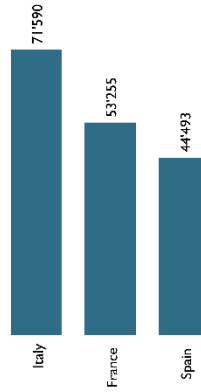
Market in billion euros Top 3 countries



Market growth in percent Top 3 countries



Number of producers Top 3 countries



Land in million hectares Top 3 countries



**FiBL** Source: FiBL survey based on national sources © 2022  
More information: [www.organic-world.net](http://www.organic-world.net) - [statistics.fibl.org](http://statistics.fibl.org)

## Organic Agriculture in Europe 2020

### Organic Farmland



### Organic Producers

The number of organic producers is increasing

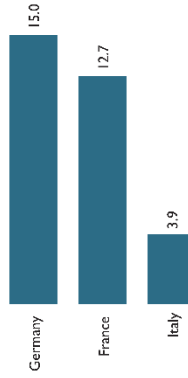


### Organic Market

The European market is growing



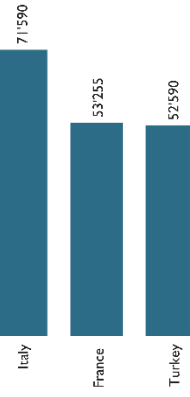
Market in billion euros Top 3 countries



Market growth in percent Top 3 countries



Number of producers Top 3 countries



Land in million hectares Top 3 countries

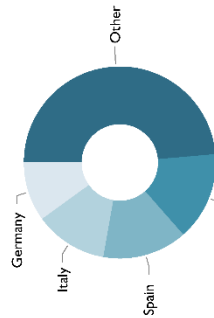


Sources: FiBL survey based on national sources © 2022  
 More information: [www.organic-world.net](http://www.organic-world.net) - [statistics@fibl.org](mailto:statistics@fibl.org)

## EUROPE: ORGANIC FARMLAND 2020



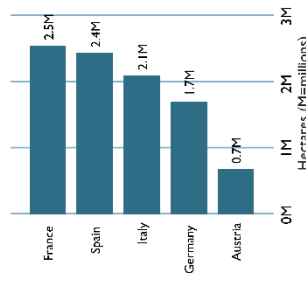
More than half of Europe's organic agricultural land is in four countries.



Distribution of organic agricultural land by country 2020.



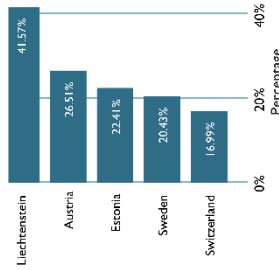
The country with the largest organic agricultural area is France, followed by Spain and Italy.



The five countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2020.



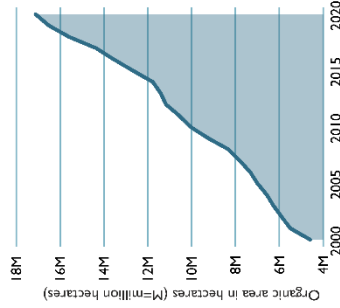
15 countries have 10% or more of their agricultural land under organic management.



The five countries with more than 10% of organic agricultural land 2020.



In 2020, nearly 0.7 million hectares more were reported compared with 2019.



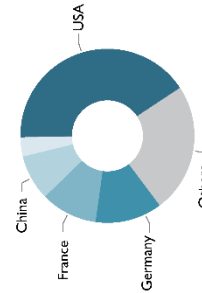
Growth of the organic agricultural land 2000-2020.

Source: FiBL 2022 [www.organic-world.net](http://www.organic-world.net) - [statistics.fibl.org](http://statistics.fibl.org)

## EUROPE: ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2020

Europe almost 52bn €

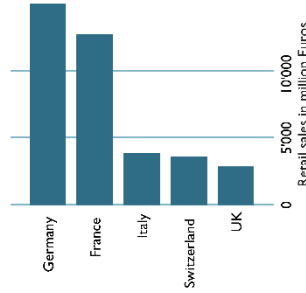
The European Union (44.8 billion €) is the second largest single market after the US (49.5 billion €) and China (10.2 billion €). By region, North America has the lead (53.7 billion €), followed by Europe (52.0 billion €) and Asia (12.5 billion €).



Distribution of retail sales by country 2020.

Germany 15bn €

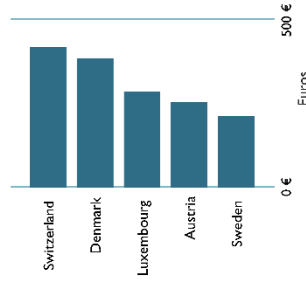
The European countries with the largest markets for organic food are Germany (15 billion €), France (12.7 billion €), Italy (3.9 billion €) and Switzerland (3.6 billion €).



The five countries with the largest markets for organic food in 2020.

418 € is spent per person in Switzerland

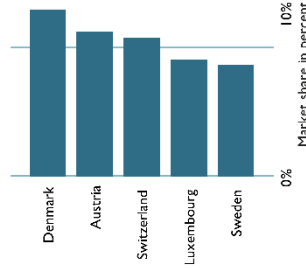
Switzerland has the highest per capita consumption worldwide, followed by Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria and Sweden.



The five countries with the highest per capita consumption 2020.

13.0% of the food market in Denmark is organic

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



The five countries with the highest organic shares of the total market in 2020.