

Media release

## European organic farmland and market continued to grow in 2021

**Increasing by almost 4 percent, the European organic market reached another high in 2021: 54.5 billion euros. Organic farmland expanded by almost 0.8 million hectares. The latest data on organic agriculture in Europe, which are published in the yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture”, will be presented at BIOFACH on Tuesday, 14 February 2023, from 11 am to 12 pm (CET).**

(Frick, 14 February 2023) In 2021, 17.8 million hectares of farmland in Europe were organic (in the European Union: 15.6 million hectares). With almost 2.8 million hectares, France continued to be the number one country in terms of farmland under organic management, followed by Spain (2.6 million hectares), Italy (2.2 million hectares) and Germany (1.8 million hectares).

### **Organic farmland increased by almost 0.8 million hectares**

Organic farmland increased by almost 0.8 million hectares, which represented an increase of 5.2 percent in the European Union and 4.4 percent in Europe. This increase was slightly lower than in 2020. Compared to 2020, France and Spain reported an increase of 0.23 million hectares and 0.20 million hectares, respectively.

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

In 2021, organic farmland in Europe constituted 3.6 percent of the total agricultural land. It was 9.6 percent in the European Union. In Europe (and globally), Liechtenstein had the highest organic area share (40.2 percent), followed by Austria, the country with the highest organic share (26.5 percent) in the European Union. Fifteen European countries reported that at least 10 percent of their farmland was organic.

### **Organic producers, processors and importers**

There were more than 440'000 organic producers in Europe and almost 380'000 in the European Union. Italy had the highest number (75'874).

There were 87'676 processors in Europe and 82'500 in the European Union; 7'590 importers were counted in Europe and 6'378 in the European Union. The country with the largest number of processors was Italy (nearly 24'000), while Germany had the most importers (more than 2'000).

### **Retail sales reached 54.5 billion euros**

Retail sales in Europe were valued at 54.5 billion euros (46.7 billion in the European Union). The largest market was Germany (15.9 billion euros). The European Union

represented the second-largest single market for organic products globally after the United States (48.6 billion euros).

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

In 2021, consumers in Europe spent 65.7 euros on organic food per person on average (European Union: 104.3 euros). Consumer spending on organic food per capita doubled in the decade 2012-2021. In 2021, Swiss and Danish consumers spent the most on organic food (425 and 384 euros per capita, respectively).

### **Denmark had the highest organic market share in the world**

Globally, European countries accounted for the highest share of organic food sales as a percentage of their respective food markets. Denmark had the highest share worldwide, with 13.0 percent in 2021, followed by Austria with a share of 11.6 percent and Luxembourg with 11.0 percent.

### **Slower growth of retail sales in 2021**

In 2021, the European market achieved a growth rate of 3.8 percent (European Union: 3.6 percent). The highest growth was observed in Estonia (+21 percent) and Luxembourg (+15.3 percent), the only countries with double-digit growth in 2021. The pandemic continued to sustain organic markets in many European countries in 2021, but not to the same extent as in 2020, when the market grew by 15 percent.

In 2022, increasing prices for consumer goods cut food spending among some groups. The 2022 data will show the impact on the organic market.

### **Further information**

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#### **Download, infographics and online databases**

- Download the statistical yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture 2023"  
[www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2023.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2023.html)
- Infographics  
[www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2023/infographics.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2023/infographics.html)

- FiBL statistics on organic agriculture worldwide  
[statistics.fibl.org](https://statistics.fibl.org)

## Links

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

## Session “The European Market for Organic Food” at the BIOFACH Congress

Tuesday, 14 February 2023, 11 am to 12 pm CET

Speakers:

- Dr. Hans-Christoph Behr, Agricultural Market Information Company AMI, Germany
- Laurence Hohn, Agence Bio, France
- Lee Holdstock, Soil Association Certification, UK
- Dr. Susanne Padel, Thünen Institute, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Francesco Solfanelli, Università Politecnica delle Marche (UNIVPM), Italy
- Jan Travnicek, Czech Organics, Czechia
- Dr. Helga Willer, Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau FiBL, Switzerland
- Prof. Dr. Raffaele Zanolì, Università Politecnica delle Marche (UNIVPM), Italy

More information: <https://biofach.fibl.org/en/biofach-all/biofach-2023#c68038>

## This media release online

This media release and infographics can be accessed online at <https://www.fibl.org/en/info-centre/media.html>.

## Acknowledgements

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. Part of this work has been carried out under the OrganicTargets4EU project, which is funded by the European Union (Grant no. 101060368) and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI (Grant no. 22.00155). Views and opinions

expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, European Research Executive Agency (REA) or Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Neither the European Union nor any other granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## **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 400 staff at its various locations.

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

# Organic Agriculture in Europe 2021

## Organic Farmland



## Organic Producers

The number of organic producers is increasing

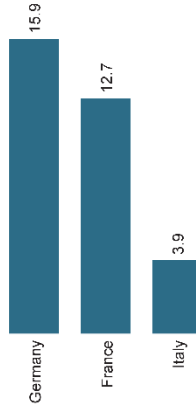


## Organic Market

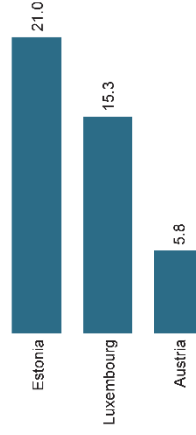
The European market is growing



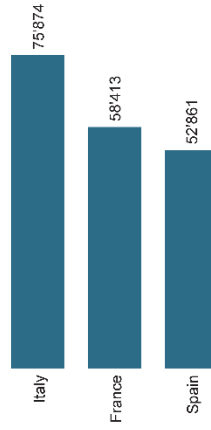
Market in billion euros  
Top 3 countries



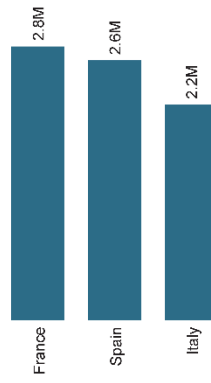
Market growth in percent  
Top 3 countries



Number of producers  
Top 3 countries



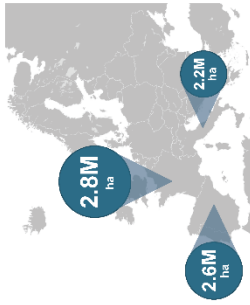
Farmland in million (M) hectares  
Top 3 countries



Source: FiBL survey © 2023  
More information: [www.organic-world.net](http://www.organic-world.net) - [statistics.fibl.org](http://statistics.fibl.org)

## Organic Agriculture in the European Union 2021

### Organic Farmland



### Organic Producers

The number of organic producers is increasing

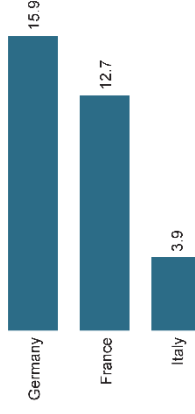


### Organic Market

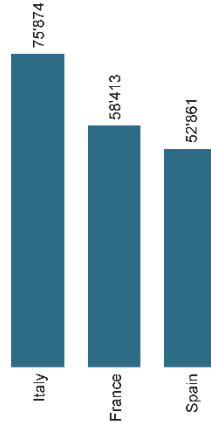
The European Union's market is growing



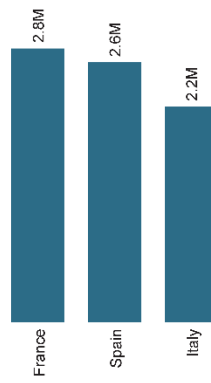
Market in billion euros Top 3 countries



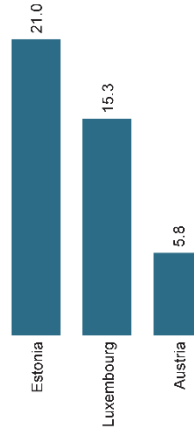
Number of producers Top 3 countries



Farmland in million hectares Top 3 countries



Market growth in percent Top 3 countries

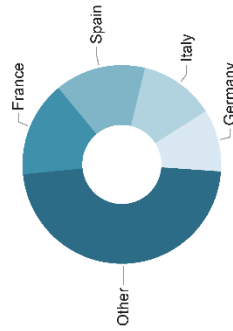


Source: FiBL survey © 2023  
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## EUROPE: ORGANIC FARMLAND 2021



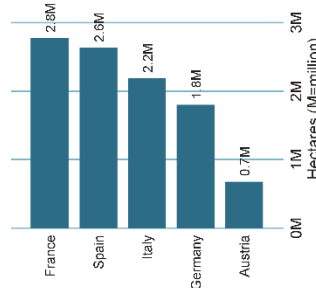
More than half of Europe's organic agricultural land (17.8 million (M) hectares) was in four countries.



Distribution of organic agricultural land by country 2021.



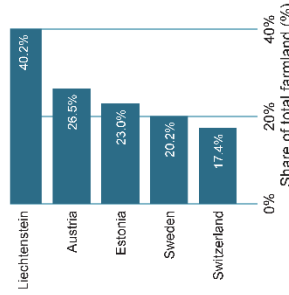
The countries with the largest organic agricultural area were France, Spain and Italy.



The 5 countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2021.



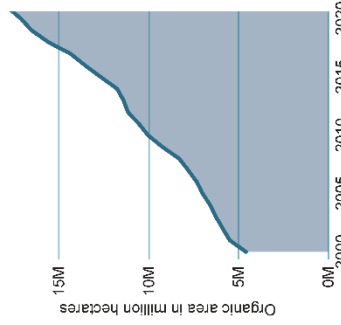
15 countries had 10% or more of their agricultural land under organic management.



Top 5 countries with an organic share of more than 10% of total agricultural land 2021.



In 2021, nearly 0.75 million hectares more were reported compared with 2020.

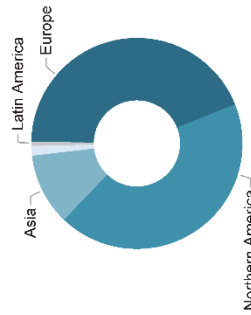


Growth of the organic agricultural land 2000-2021.

## EUROPE: ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2021



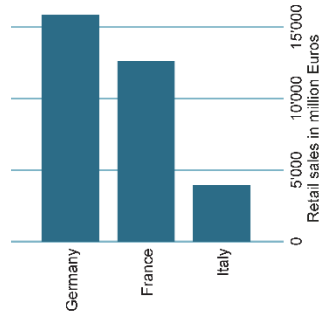
By region, Europe had the lead with 54.5 billion (bn) €, followed by North America (53.9 billion €) and Asia (13.7 billion €).



Distribution of retail sales by region 2021.



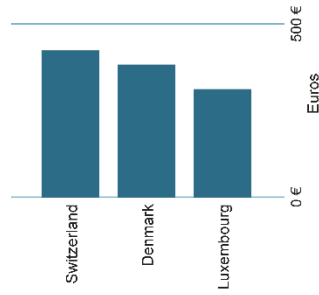
The European countries with the largest markets for organic food were Germany (15.9 billion €), France (12.7 billion €), Italy (3.9 billion €) and Switzerland (3.7 billion €).



The 3 countries with the largest markets for organic food in 2021.



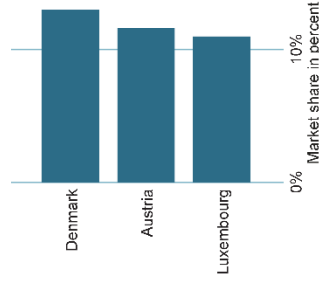
Switzerland had the highest per capita consumption worldwide, followed by Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria and Sweden.



Top 3 countries with the highest per capita consumption 2021.



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



The 3 countries with the highest organic shares if the total market in 2021.