Media release

In 2022, more than 10 percent of the European Union’s farmland was organic

Increasing by 5.1 percent, the European Union's organic area continued to grow steadily in 2022, reaching 16.9 million hectares, which accounts for 10.4 percent of the total farmland. Retail sales, however, experienced a modest decline. The latest data on organic agriculture in Europe, published in the yearbook 'The World of Organic Agriculture', will be presented at BIOFACH, the world's leading trade fair for organic food, on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, from 5 to 6 pm (CET).

(Frick, February 13, 2024) In 2022, 18.5 million hectares of farmland in Europe were organic (16.9 million hectares in the European Union (EU). France continued to lead as the number one country in terms of farmland under organic management with 2.9 million hectares, followed by Spain (2.7 million hectares), Italy (2.3 million hectares), and Germany (1.9 million hectares).

Organic farmland increased by more than 0.8 million hectares in the EU

Organic farmland increased by more than 0.8 million hectares, representing a 5.1 percent increase in the EU and a 1.0 percent increase in Europe. In comparison to 2021, Greece and Italy reported the largest increases, with 0.4 million hectares and 0.2 million hectares, respectively.

Liechtenstein led with the highest share of total organic farmland in the world

In 2022, organic farmland in Europe constituted 3.7 percent of the total agricultural land, while it accounted for 10.4 percent in the European Union. Among European countries and globally, Liechtenstein had the highest organic area share at 43.0 percent, followed by Austria, the EU country with the highest organic share at 27.5 percent. Fifteen European countries reported that at least 10 percent of their farmland was organic.

**Organic producers in the EU increased by almost 10 percent**

There were more than 480,000 organic producers in Europe and over 419,000 in the EU, representing an increase of 7.5 and 9.5 percent, respectively. Italy had the highest number with 82,593.

In Europe, there were 91,775 processors, while the EU had 85,956. Additionally, 7,609 importers were counted in Europe, with 6,450 in the European Union. Italy had the highest number of processors, nearly 24,000, while Germany led in the number of importers with more than 1,900.

Retail sales valued at 53.1 billion euros in Europe

Retail sales of organic products in Europe reached a total value of 53.1 billion euros in 2022 (45.1 billion euros within the European Union). Germany stood out as the largest market, boasting sales of 15.3 billion euros. Globally, the EU held the position of the second-largest single market for organic products, trailing behind only the United States, which reported sales of 58.6 billion euros.

In 2022, the European market experienced a 2.2 percent drop (EU: -2.8 percent). While several countries faced declining sales, noteworthy growth was observed in countries such as Estonia (+6.0 percent) and The Netherlands (+4.4 percent).

European consumers spent 64 euros per person on organic food in 2022

In 2022, consumers in Europe spent an average of 64 euros on organic food per person (102 euros in the EU). Consumer spending on organic food per capita doubled in the decade from 2013 to 2022. In 2022, Swiss and Danish consumers spent the most on organic food, with 437 and 365 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 continued to have the highest share worldwide, with 12.0 percent in 2022, followed by Austria with a share of 11.5 percent and Switzerland with 11.2 percent.

Further information

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Download, infographics and online databases

* Download the statistical yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture 2024”  
  <https://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2024.html>
* Infographics  
  [www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2024/infographics.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2024/infographics.html)
* FiBL statistics on organic agriculture worldwide  
  https://[statistics.fibl.org](https://statistics.fibl.org/)

Links

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

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

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 5 pm to 6 pm CET

**Speakers**:

* Dr. Susanne Padel, Thünen-Institut für Betriebswirtschaft, Germany
* Jan Trávníček, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Switzerland
* Diana Schaack, Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft mbH, Germany
* Sarah Le Douarin, Agence Bio, France
* Lee Holdstock, Soil Association Certification
* Prof. Dr. Raffaele Zanoli and Prof. Dr. Francesco Solfanelli, Università Politecnica delle Marche (UNIVPM), Italy

More information: <https://biofach.fibl.org/en/biofach-all/biofach-2024#c73663>

This media release online

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

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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 more than 400 staff at its various locations.

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**Europe and the European Union: Key indicators 2022**

| **Indicator** | **Europe** | **European Union** | **Top 3 countries in Europe** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organic farmland** | 18.5 million hectares (ha) | 16.9 million ha | France (2.9 million ha); Spain (2.7 million ha); Italy (2.3 million ha) |
| **Organic share  of total farmland** | 3.7 % | 10.4 % | Liechtenstein (43.0 %); Austria (27.5 %); Estonia (23.4 %) |
| **Increase in organic farmland 2021-2022** | 0.19 million ha | 0.83 million ha | Greece (+0.39 million ha); Italy (0.16 million ha); France (+0.10 million ha) |
| **%-Increase in organic farmland** | 1.0 % | 5.1 % | Greece (+73.0 %); Kosovo (+55.2 %), Bulgaria (+28.0 %) |
| **Land use** | Arable crops: 8.4 million ha; Permanent crops: 2.4 million ha; Permanent grassland: 7.4 million ha | Arable crops: 7.6 million ha  Permanent crops 2.2 million ha  Permanent grassland: 6.9 million ha |  |
| **Top arable crop groups** | Cereals: 2.9 million ha  Green fodder: 2.7 million ha  Oilseeds: 0.7 million ha | Cereals: 2.6 million ha Green fodder: 2.6 million ha Dry pulses: 0.5 million ha | Largest arable areas:  France (1.6 million ha); Italy (1.1 million ha); Germany (0.8 million ha) |
| **Top permanent crop groups** | Olives: 0.6 million ha  Grapes: 0.5 million ha  Nuts: 0.5 million ha | Olives: 0.6 million ha  Grapes: 0.5 million ha  Nuts: 0.4 million ha | Largest permanent crop areas:  Spain (0.8 million ha; Italy (0.6 million ha); France (0.2 million ha) |
| **Wild collection area** | 11.3 million ha | 7.3 million ha | Finland (6.9 million ha); North Macedonia (0.6 million ha), Albania (0.5 million ha) |
| **Producers** | 480'135 | 419'112 | Italy (82'593); Greece (58'691); France (58'413) |
| **Processors** | 91'775 | 85'956 | Italy (23'602); Germany (21'981); France (19'311) |
| **Importers** | 7'609 | 6'450 | Germany (1'944); Switzerland (687); France (662) |
| **Retail sales** | 53.1 billion euros | 45.1 billion euros | Germany (15.3 billion euros); France (12.1 billion euros); Switzerland (3.7 billion euros) |
| **Development of retail sales 2021–2022** | -2.2 % | -2.8 % | Estonia (6.0 %); Netherlands (4.4 %); Austria (4.1 %) |
| **Organic share of the total market** | No data | No data | Denmark (12.0 %); Austria (11.5 %); Switzerland (11.2 %) |
| **Per capita consumption** | 64 | 102 euros | Switzerland (437 euros); Denmark (365 euros); Austria (274 euros) |
| **EU organic imports** |  | 2.73 million metric tons (MT) | Netherlands (0.99 million MT); Germany (0.45 million MT); France (0.27 million MT) |
| **Exports to EU** |  | Bananas (0.71 million MT)  Oilcake (0.23 million MT)  Soybeans (0.19 million MT) | Ecuador (0.35 million MT); Dom. Rep. (0.25 million MT); Ukraine (0.22 million MT); |

*Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2024.*





