



# HOT SOURCE

Global food integrity issues  
and emerging risks

April-June 2022

Q2

FOODCHAIN ID<sup>®</sup>

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# Dear Reader

## Stay on top of food safety with HorizonScan

With the prospect of significant challenges across the globe on the horizon, along with ever greater pressures on public resources, food and drink businesses will have to become increasingly smart and creative if they wish to avoid becoming victims of fraud. However, with creative thinking and solutions to the problem, can also bring about new opportunities to add value to products and to increase levels of consumer trust through verification of the authenticity and integrity of products. And if businesses can also use that information to work with the authorities to help combat crime then we could all be on to a winner.

HorizonScan can play a key part in the sharing of intelligence and data on emerging and increasing food safety issues. HorizonScan houses data since 1999 to date, a web-based food safety alerting tool of raw material and global commodity issues across all food integrity areas.

## The HorizonScan Team



## Food fraud issues:

- Counterfeit chocolate bars of a famous brand have been found in the United Kingdom. The counterfeit bars may be unsafe to eat, as there is a possibility that they are being produced or repackaged by unregistered businesses and by individuals who could be contravening food hygiene, labelling and traceability laws.
- Europol warns “food fraud on the rise” as illicit meat, seafood and expired food cases increase. Europol’s latest Opson IX report on food fraud activity across 77 countries worldwide details a total of 12,000 illicit food products seized.
- An operation by Spain’s Guardia Civil has dismantled a criminal network that fraudulently sold powdered gardenia extract, claiming it was the high-price spice saffron. The operation focused on three businesses operating in Malaga, Barcelona, Alicante, Granada and Almeria with links to a factory producing the powdered extract in China.
- In China, counterfeit mineral water, empty bottles and labels were seized, and 12 suspects were arrested after an investigation uncovered a large operation in which underground water was filtered and placed into bottles with other brands’ label. The counterfeit mineral water was sold to dealers for distribution across several provinces. The operation is said to have been ongoing in rural areas since 2018.
- Food adulteration cases could rise as companies seek alternatives to those foodstuffs, such as sunflower oil, impacted by the conflict in Ukraine, it has been cautioned.
- Swiss police have seized more than 500kg of cocaine found in a delivery of coffee beans to Nestle’s Nespresso factory in Romont.
- Ukraine has warned that Russia’s invasion of the country threatens food safety and it is also worried about food fraud. Comments were made at the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe meeting, held this past week. Several countries expressed concern about the invasion and short and long-term effects it may have on food security, food quality, and food safety in Ukraine and beyond.
- Belgian police have made six arrests as part of a fraud investigation involving horses and other animals. The probe found that animals, mainly horses, are given a new identity so they can be diverted into the food chain, sent to slaughter and their meat sold.
- An industry association has warned that more than two thirds of food worldwide that are purported to be Italian actually have no production or employment links to Italy. Affected food include parmesan cheese, Parma ham, mozzarella, provolone, ricotta cheeses and Chianti wine. If not made in Italy in accordance with special rules, such products might be considered examples of food fraud, particularly when marketed in Europe.
- An audit of the meat sector in Ireland has found a number of serious issues including forgery, use of meat with an expired date, and one company unable to identify its suppliers. Some non-compliances undermined the safety of food or resulted in misleading information for consumers, said the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)





## Emerging issues:

- United States has reported for the first time the findings of an illegal colour additive in gelatine from Jordan.
- The detection of Lead detected in mandarin orange float drink has been considered an emerging issue by HorizonScan.
- An emerging issue has appeared in HorizonScan following the release of a RASFF report over an unauthorised GMO detected in feed additive from Bulgaria.
- For the first time, the exceedance of 3-MCPD in palm oil from Singapore has been reported by Croatia.
- The detection of unauthorised colour Sudan II (CAS 3118-97-6), Sudan III (CAS-85-86-9) and Sudan Red G (CAS 1229-55-6) in sweet pepper powder from The Russian Federation has been classified as an emerging issue by HorizonScan. The problem has been notified by Latvia.
- The report concerning too high content of Cadmium (0.140mg/Kg) in parsley from Poland, has been considered an emerging issue by HorizonScan.

## Increasing issues:

- Romania is seeing an increase in the number of reports regarding pesticide residues being detected in watermelons exported from Turkey. The active substances being found are ethionphos, malathion, bromopropylate and imidacloprid.
- An increasing issue has been picked up by HorizonScan concerning the detection of unauthorised colours in cereal snacks from Mexico.
- France, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and Singapore have noticed an increase in reports concerning the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in cheese from France.
- Reports alerting about aflatoxins being found in rice from Pakistan have been considered an increasing issue by HorizonScan. Notifying countries are Belgium, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and The Netherlands.
- United States are seeing an increase in the number of reports concerning pesticides residues in carrots being imported from Mexico.
- There has been an increment in number of reports, notified by Canada, Ireland, Slovenia, The Netherlands and United States, in relation to undeclared sulphur dioxide in cultivated mushrooms originated from China.

## Q2 results 2022

		Quarter change from Q1 2022	Annual change from Q2 2021
	Poultry & poultry products	↑ 25.4%	↓ 1.3%
	Seafood	↑ 4.7%	↑ 25.8%
	Milk & dairy products	↓ 44.6%	↓ 32.2%
	Meat & meat products (excluding poultry)	↑ 47.1%	↓ 4.9%
	Herbs & spices	↓ 17.2%	↑ 23.9%
	Fruit & vegetables	↓ 22.9%	↑ 24.6%
	Nuts, nut products & seeds	↓ 28.1%	↑ 4.9%













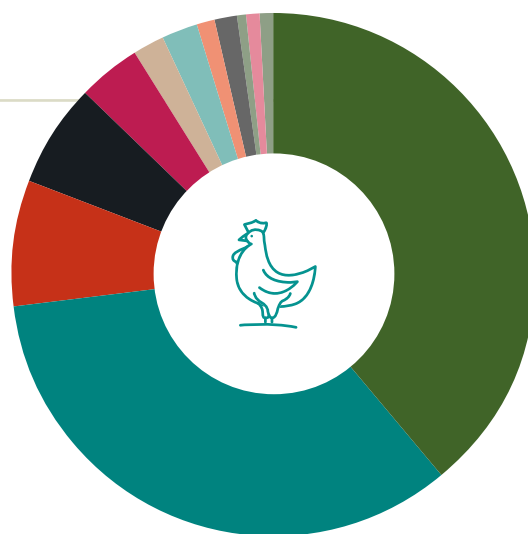


## Poultry meat and poultry products

Main issues reported during Q2 2022

### Total of 153 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
	Meat - chicken	39.2	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Meat products (pâté, burgers etc.)	34	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Meat - turkey	7.8	Foreign bodies
	Eggs	6.5	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Meat products - sausages	3.9	<i>Salmonella</i> or undeclared allergens
	Meat - duck	2	<i>Listeria</i> or <i>Salmonella</i>
	Eggs - dried/ powdered/liquid	2	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Offal - duck	1.3	<i>Listeria</i> or other microbiological contaminants
	Offal - chicken	1.3	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Fat - duck	0.7	<i>Listeria</i>
	Meat, minced, ground - chicken	0.7	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Meat - pigeon	0.7	<i>Campylobacter</i>










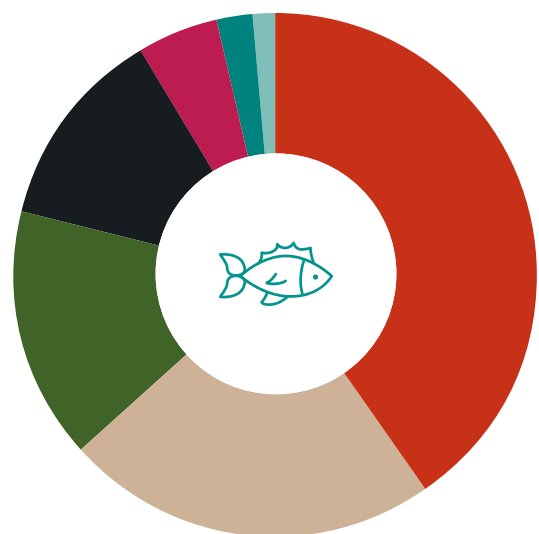


## Seafood

Main issues reported during Q2 2022

### Total of 337 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
	Fish - fresh/frozen	40.4	Altered organoleptis, Mercury or histamine
	Crustaceans (crab, shrimps etc.)	23.1	Vet drugs or <i>Salmonella</i>
	Fish - smoked/cured/dried	15.4	<i>Listeria</i> or mislabelling
	Bivalve molluscs (mussels etc.)	12.5	Norovirus
	Cephalopods (octopus, squid etc.)	5	Insufficient controls
	Other sea food	2.4	Altered organoleptis or produced without inspection
	Seaweed, algae, carrageenan	1.2	Iodine















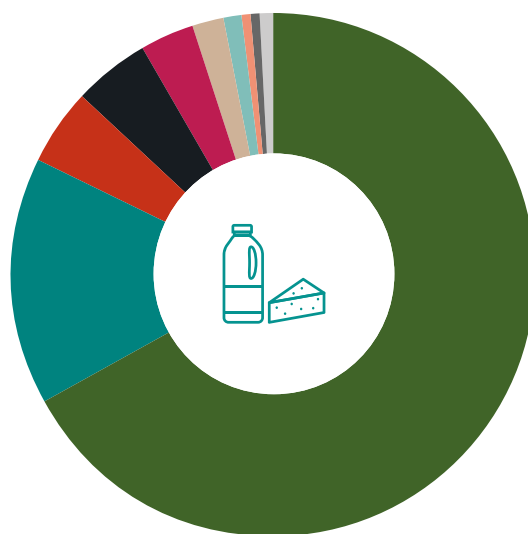


## Milk & dairy products

Main issues reported during Q2 2022

### Total of 175 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
	Milk products - cheese	65.1	<i>Listeria</i>
	Milk products - ice-cream	14.9	Pesticides
	Milk products - beverages	4.6	Unapproved premises
	Milk products - yoghurt	4	<i>E. coli</i>
	Milk products - butter and ghee	4	<i>E. coli</i> or mislabelling
	Milk - bovine (cow)	3.4	<i>Listeria</i> or altered organolepsis
	Milk products - milk powder	1.7	Unauthorised additive or unapproved premises
	Milk products - cream	1.1	<i>Listeria</i> or adulteration
	Milk products - others (e.g. caseins)	0.6	Mislabelling
	Milk products - condensed milk	0.6	Melamine and cyanuric acid



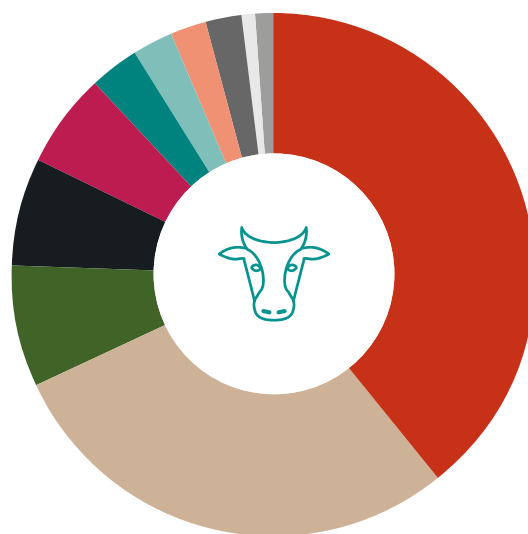


## Meat and meat products (other than poultry)

Main issues reported during Q2 2022

### Total of 231 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
	Meat products and preparations	38.1	<i>Listeria</i> or <i>Salmonella</i>
	Meat products - sausages	28.1	<i>Listeria</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> or foreign bodies
	Meat products - hams	7.4	<i>Listeria</i>
	Meat - porcine (pork, pig)	6.5	<i>Salmonella</i> or <i>Listeria</i>
	Meat - bovine (beef, veal, cow)	5.6	<i>Salmonella</i> or <i>E. coli</i>
	Meat, minced, ground - bovine	3	<i>E. coli</i>
	Meat - ovine (lamb, mutton, sheep)	2.2	Foreign bodies
	Meat - other, mixed or unspecified	2.2	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Meat - equidae (horse)	2.2	Cadmium
	Offal - equidae (horse)	0.9	Cadmium
	Offal - porcine (pork, pig)	0.9	<i>Listeria</i> or unapproved premises









## Herbs & spices

Main issues reported during Q2 2022

### Total of 202 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
	Pepper, black, pink and white	19.3	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Spice mixtures/other spices	16.8	Pesticides or <i>Salmonella</i>
	Cumin seed and ground (jeera)	10.9	Pesticides or other natural toxicants
	Tamarind	8.9	Altered organolepsis
	Coriander leaves (cilantro)	6.9	Pesticides
	Paprika and chilli powder	6.9	<i>Salmonella</i> or aflatoxins
	Parsley	3.5	Pesticides
	Nutmeg whole and ground	3	Aflatoxins
	Ginger	2.5	Pesticides, undeclared sulphites or aflatoxins
	Turmeric (haldi), curcuma	2.5	Aflatoxins
	Coriander seed and ground (dhania)	2	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Basil	2	Pesticides
	Other herbs - dried	2	Pesticides



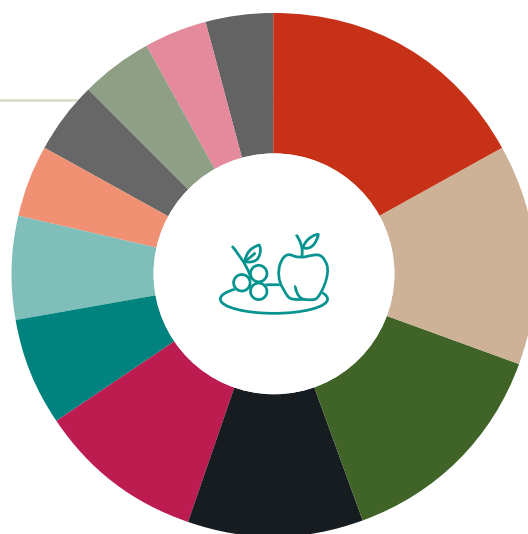


## Fruit & vegetables

Main issues reported during Q2 2022

### Total of 597 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
	Cultivated mushrooms and fungi	8.7	<i>Listeria</i> or altered organolepsis
	Peppers (sweet or bell)	6.9	Pesticides
	Chilli peppers - fresh or dried	6.9	Pesticides
	Lemons	5.5	Pesticides
	Garlic, fresh, powder and paste	5.2	Altered organolepsis
	Grapefruit	3.4	Pesticides
	Figs - dried	3.2	Aflatoxins
	Vine fruits - raisins	2.3	Pesticides
	Dates - dried	2.3	Altered organolepsis
	Other dried or candied fruits	2.2	Altered organolepsis
	Prunes - dried plums	2	Lead
	Mangoes - fresh or dried	2	Pesticides


















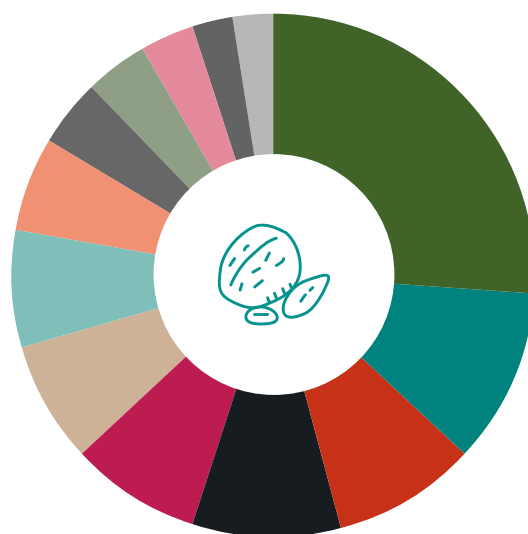


## Nuts, nut products and seeds

Main issues reported during Q2 2022

### Total of 128 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
	Pistachios	25	Aflatoxins
	Almonds	10.2	Aflatoxins
	Apricot kernels	8.6	Hydrocyanic acid
	Other tree nuts & mixed nuts	8.6	Undeclared allergens
	Hazelnuts	7.8	Aflatoxins
	Nut spreads and butters	7	Undeclared allergens
	Chia seeds	7	Undeclared soya
	Other sprouted seeds	5.5	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Cashew nuts	3.9	<i>Salmonella</i>
	Bean sprouts (mung beans)	3.9	Pesticides
	Pumpkin seeds	3.1	Aflatoxins
	Other seeds - not listed	2.3	Undeclared allergens or <i>Salmonella</i>
	Alfalfa sprouts	2.3	<i>Salmonella</i>





## KEY

'%' relates to the number of issues concerning that commodity in its group, for example 36% of all issues concerning nuts, nut products and seeds involved pistachios.

'Main issues' reflects the majority of issues reported for that commodity, but does not include every minor issue, for example, most reported issues concerning chicken meat were the presence of Salmonella.

'Issues' relates to food recalls, border rejections and other such notifications at a global level collated from over 90 official government and other additional reliable sources around the world.

For further information or a demonstration from the team on HorizonScan, contact the Team on;

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