



Imprint

BfR Consumer Monitor 06|2015

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Max-Dohrn-Straße 8–10
10589 Berlin
bfr@bfr.bund.de
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Introduction

The question as to how important topics from the field of consumer health protection are perceived by the general public is of paramount importance for the work of the BfR. One particular question that is raised is if and to what extent the estimation of the general public deviates from the scientific estimation of health risks. As a representative consumer survey, the BfR Consumer Monitor provides some important insights into this at 6-month intervals.

Generally speaking, consumers have regarded smoking, climate and environmental damage and alcohol as the greatest health risks for consumers in the first half of 2015. As in 2014, big differences have been established where awareness of health and consumer topics is concerned. Whereas more than half of the respondents were aware of plant protection products in fruit and vegetables, as well as mineral oil in body care products or

microplastic in food, only a comparatively small number of respondents had heard about arsenic in rice. Least well known is the name glyphosate for a plant protection product which is currently the focus of media attention. Consumers are still concerned above all about antimicrobial resistance, thereby sharing the scientific estimation of this problem. Ultimately, a large majority of respondents considers food in Germany to be safe despite all of the reports about increasing uncertainty among consumers.

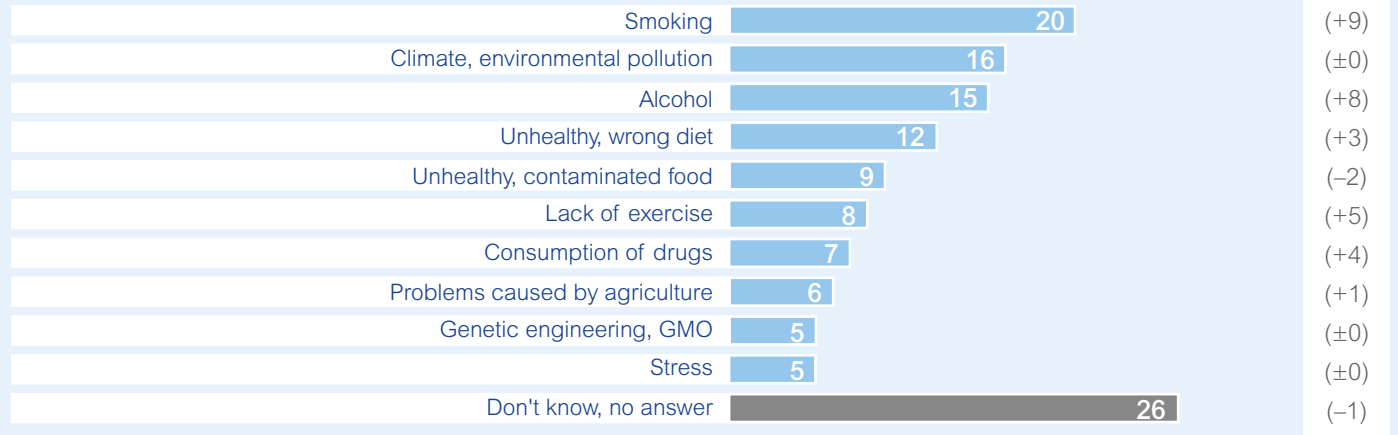
If you would like to find out more about the individual topics, you will find links to more detailed information at the BfR website on the last page of this booklet.



Which topics do you personally consider
to be the greatest health risks for consumers?

You can list a maximum of three topics.


Health risks for consumers



Spontaneous mentions

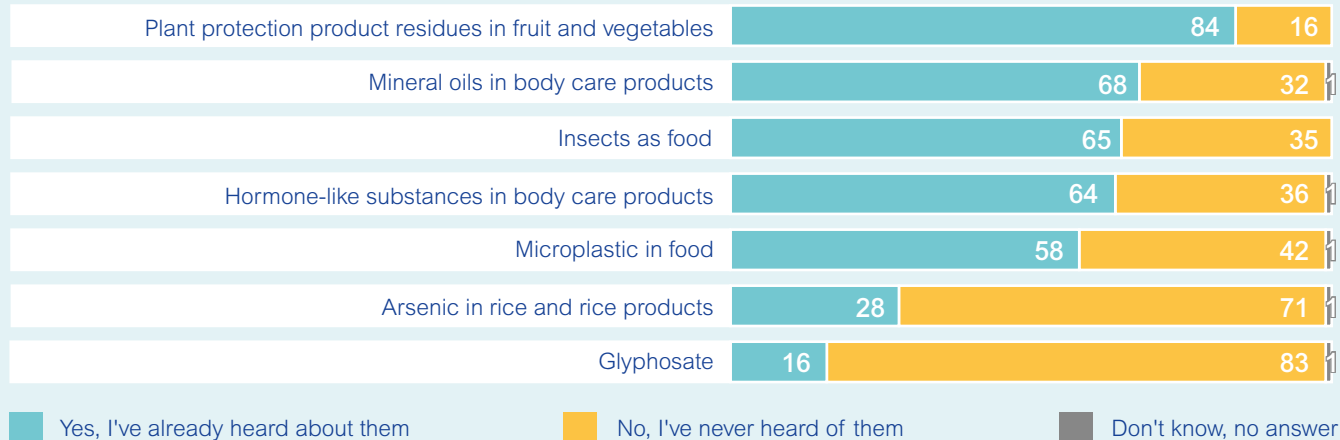
Shown: Mentions ≥ 5% (multiple mentions possible)

Basis: 1,016; figures given as percentages (compared to 2014: percentage points)




Have you already heard about the following health and consumer topics or have you never heard of them?

Awareness of health and consumer topics



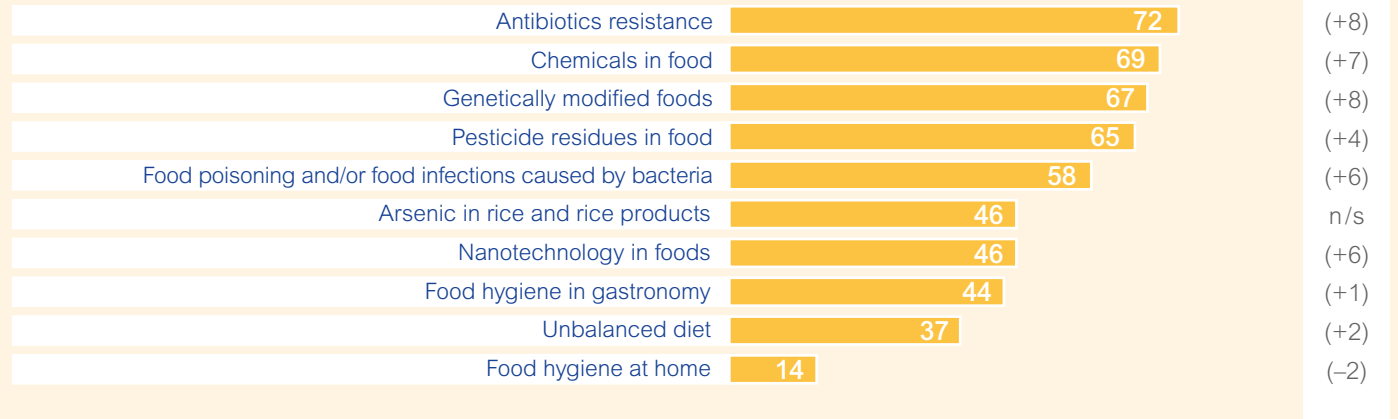
Basis: 1,016; figures given as percentages



To what extent are you personally concerned or unconcerned about the following food safety topics?

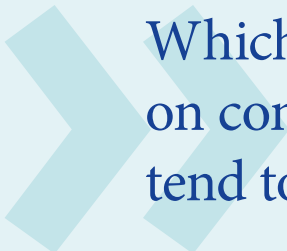
Please use a scale from 1 to 5 for your answer, with 1 representing “not concerned” and 5 “concerned”. You can graduate your opinion with the values in between.

Concern about food safety topics



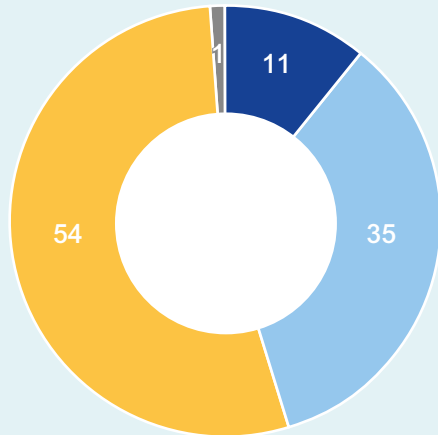
Shown: Percentage “concerned” (4 + 5 on the scale)

Basis: 1,016; figures given as percentages (compared to 2014: percentage points)




Which of the following three statements on consumer health protection would you tend to agree with most?

Consumer health protection



	Compared to 2014
<p>I assume that I can assess health risks by myself and tend not to need any state institutions for this.</p>	(±0)
<p>The state should provide scientifically sound information on the basis of which I can protect myself against health risks.</p>	(+1)
<p>The state should take more concrete measures such as bans and restrictions to protect me as a consumer from health risks.</p>	(+1)
<p>Don't know, no answer</p>	(±0)

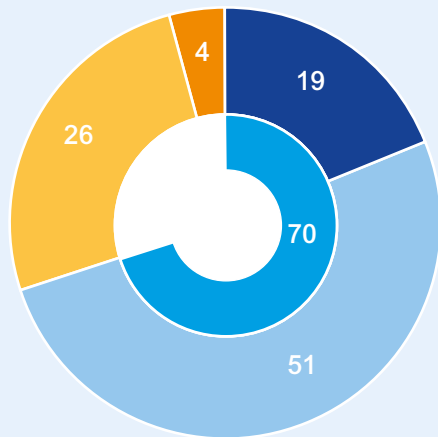
Basis: 1,016; figures given as percentages (compared to 2014: percentage points)



How do you estimate in general the safety of foods you can buy in Germany?

Would you say the foods are ...

Safety of foods offered for sale in Germany



Safe

More safe than unsafe

More unsafe than safe

Unsafe

Percentages "Safe" + "More safe than unsafe"

*Compared
to 2014*

(-3)


(+2)

(+3)

(-1)

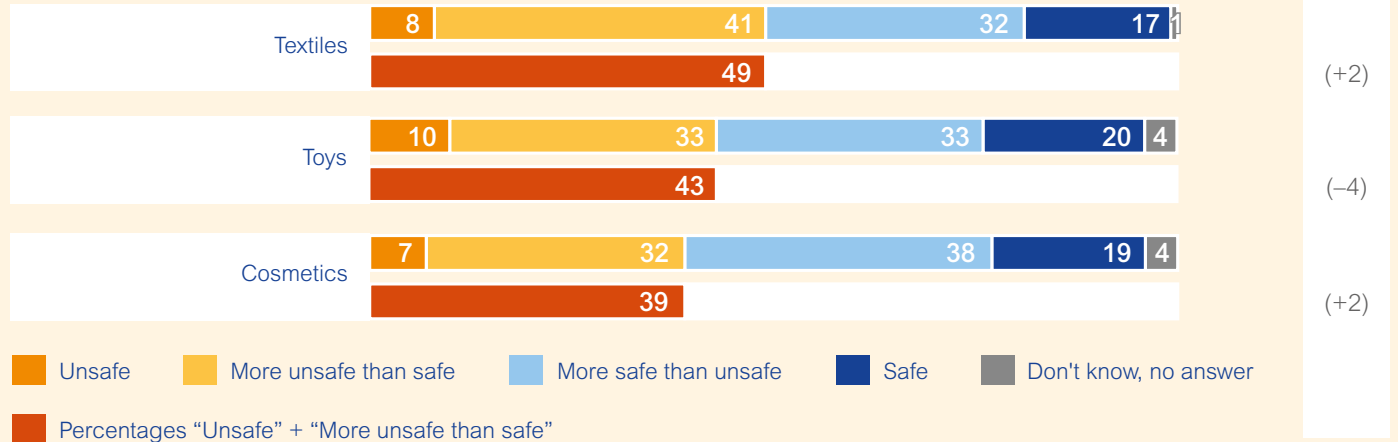
(-1)

Basis: 1,016; figures given as percentages (compared to 2014: percentage points)




And how do you estimate in general the safety of the following products which you can buy in Germany?

Safety of products offered for sale in Germany

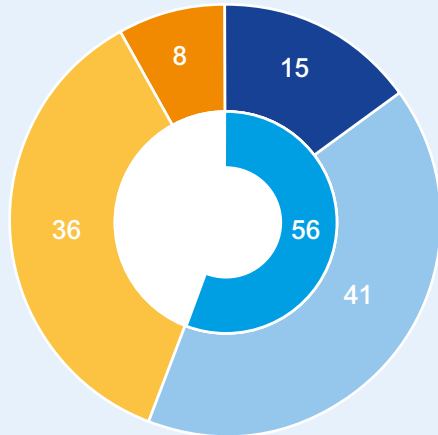


Basis: 1,016; figures given as percentages (compared to 2014: percentage points)



To what extent do you trust that state authorities
in Germany protect the health of consumers?

Trust in state authorities to protect health



	Compared to 2014
■ I trust them	(-1)
■ I tend to trust them	(+4)
■ I tend to distrust them	(-3)
■ I don't trust them	(+1)
■ Percentages "I trust them" + "I tend to trust them"	(+2)

Basis: 1,016; figures given as percentages (compared to 2014: percentage points)

How were the data collected?

Date of the survey: 17 and 23 June 2015

Number of respondents: 1,016

Presentation of results: All figures in percent, rounding differences possible

Population: German-speaking population aged 14 years and over in private households in the Federal Republic of Germany

Sampling: Samples drawn at random from land line and mobile telephone numbers which can also include telephone numbers not listed in directories (in line with standards set by the Association of German Market Research Institutes – ADM)

Method: Telephone interview (CATI multi-topic interview, Dual Frame)

Conducted by: TNS Emnid

Previous study: BfR Consumer Monitor 2014

About the BfR

Do nanoparticles promote allergies? Does apple juice contain health-damaging aluminium? The Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) evaluates the possible health risk of foods and feeds, consumer products and chemicals. With its work, it makes a decisive contribution towards ensuring that foods, products and chemicals become safer in Germany. The institute is independent in its scientific assessments, research and communication. It is the scientific institution of the Federal Republic of Germany charged with preparing expert reports and opinions on questions of food and feed safety, as well as the safety of substances and products. By doing so, the institute makes an important contribution towards improving consumer health protection and food safety. The BfR works within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

i More information at: www.bfr.bund.de/en

Antibiotics resistance:

> [A-Z Index](#) > [Antibiotics resistance](#)

Mineral oil in body care products:

> [Questions and answers](#) > [Product safety](#)

Microplastic in foods:

> [Publications](#) > [Opinions](#) > [2015](#) > [013/2015](#)

Arsenic in rice and rice products:

> [Questions and answers](#) > [Food safety](#)

Glyphosate:

> [Questions and answers](#) > [Chemical safety](#)

Food hygiene:

> [Publications](#) > [Leaflets](#) > [Leaflets for consumers](#)

Genetically modified foods:

> [Questions and answers](#) > [Food safety](#)

Federal Institute for Risk Assessment

Max-Dohrn-Straße 8–10
10589 Berlin
GERMANY

Phone +49 30 18412-0
Fax +49 30 18412-4741
bfr@bfr.bund.de
www.bfr.bund.de/en



Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung