

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
- FiBL statistics on organic agriculture worldwide
<https://statistics.fibl.org>

Links

- www.fibl.org: Website of FiBL, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
- www.ami-informiert.de: Website of AMI, the Agricultural Market Information Company
- 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>.

Acknowledgements

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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.

Organic Agriculture in Europe 2022

Organic Farmland



Organic Producers

The number of organic producers is increasing

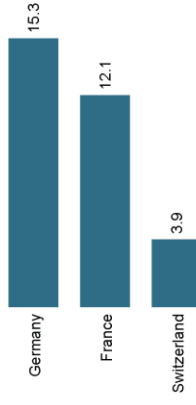


Organic Market

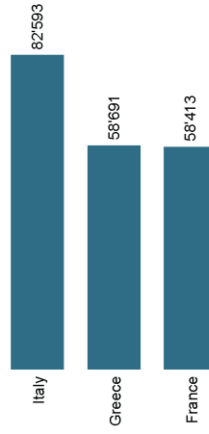
The European market contracts slightly in 2021/2022



Market in billion euros Top 3 countries



Number of producers Top 3 countries



Farmland in million (M) hectares Top 3 countries



Market growth in percent Top 3 countries 2021/2022



Source: FiBL survey © 2024
More information: www.organic-world.net - statistics.fibl.org

Organic Agriculture in the European Union 2022

Organic Farmland



Organic Producers

The number of organic producers is increasing

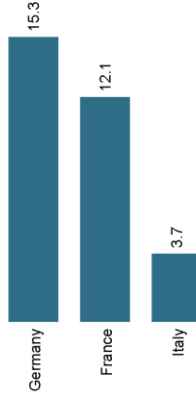


Organic Market

The European Union's market contracts slightly in 2021/2022



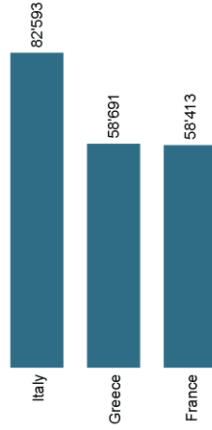
Market in billion euros
Top 3 countries



Farmland in million hectares
Top 3 countries



Number of producers
Top 3 countries



Market growth in percent
Top 3 countries 2021/2022

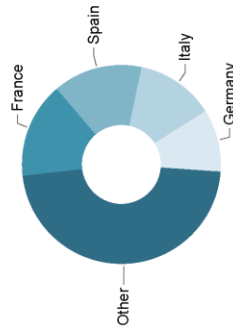


Source: FiBL survey © 2024
More information: www.organic-world.net - statistics.fibl.org

EUROPE: ORGANIC FARMLAND 2022



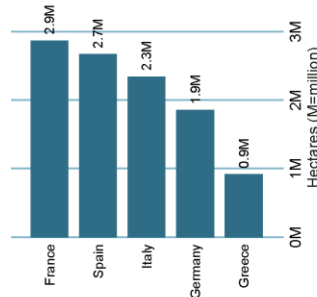
Four countries hold more than half of Europe's organic agricultural area.



Distribution of organic agricultural land by country 2022



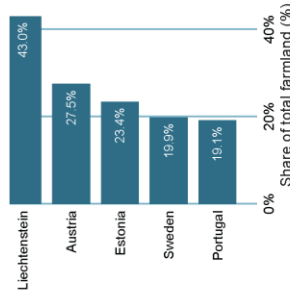
The countries with the largest organic agricultural area were France, Spain and Italy.



The 5 countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2022



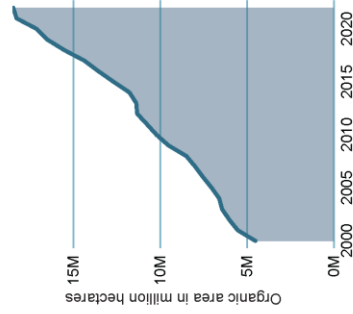
15 countries had 10% or more of their agricultural land under organic management.



Top 5 countries with an organic share of more than 10% of total agricultural land 2022



In 2022, about 190'000 hectares more were reported compared with 2021.

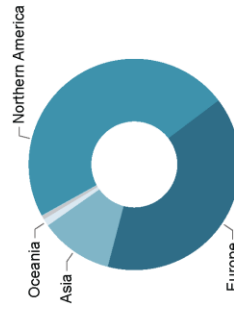


Growth of the organic agricultural land 2000-2022

EUROPE: ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2022



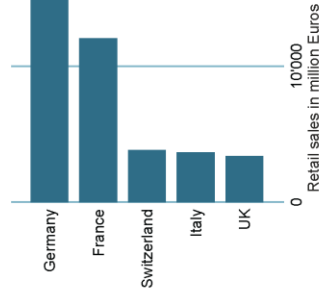
By continent, North America had the lead with 64.4 billion (bn) €, followed by Europe (53.1 billion €) and Asia (15.0 billion €).



Distribution of retail sales by region 2022



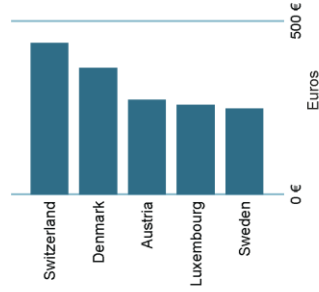
The European countries with the largest markets for organic food were Germany (15.3 billion €), France (12.1 billion €), Switzerland (3.9 billion €) and Italy (3.7 billion €).



The top 5 countries with the largest markets for organic food in 2022



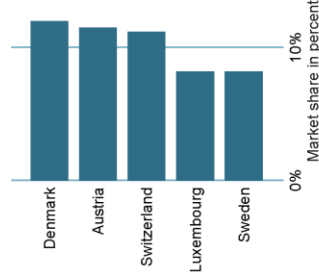
Switzerland had the highest per capita consumption worldwide, followed by Denmark, Austria, Luxembourg and Sweden.



Top 5 countries with the highest per capita consumption 2022



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



The 5 countries with the highest organic shares of the total market in 2022

Source: FiBL survey 2024 www.organic-world.net - statistics.fibl.org