

Food Forensics



FOOD RISK UPDATE NEWSLETTER April 2023



HIGHLIGHTS

- Origin of meat and integrity of supply chains remains high on the agenda - tests are available for testing for consistency with claimed origin
- Pork price premiums are starting to increase again
- Commercial layer eggs set has reduced - imported eggs still coming into the UK
- Lamb leg demand is always high at Easter, of the UK imports coming in 17% are legs
- Production of whole milk powder has reduced globally
- Cod and Haddock imports reduced - increases in the use of Pacific Hake
- Salad and protected crop supply remains difficult

Protein

Avian Influenza (AI)

While the numbers of reported incidence in the EU have reduced from their peak the levels are still concerning. A high level of virus detection has been seen in black-headed gulls with large mortality events observed in 4 EU countries. As these gulls move inland to breed in the coming months there may be an increase overlap potential with poultry production areas. In the Americas the virus continues to spread southward, a mass mortality was seen in sea lions in Peru.

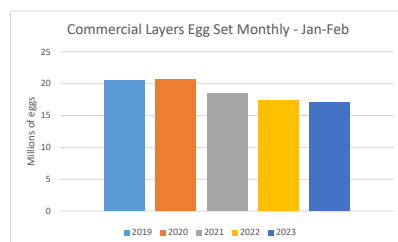
The UK Avian Influenza Prevention Zone remains in place for the whole of the UK. The housing order remains in place for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The UK government is currently consulting on new registration rules for all poultry keepers in GB. The rules would require all poultry keepers (regardless of numbers of birds) to register and update information annually.

Eggs

The continued housing order means that eggs produced from housed birds may no longer be sold as free range. Farms are therefore unable to stamp egg on farms as the farm stamp includes the "2" stamp indicating Free Range. Egg demand increases around Easter. Eggs set monthly as commercial layer has reduced compared to the same time last year. There has been a steady decline in monthly eggs set for commercial layers

in Jan/Feb of nearly 18% over the last 5 years.



EU egg prices continue to increase. US prices have rebounded having reduced significantly off their peak at the end of 2022. EU egg exports declined overall but there was a 26% increase in exports from the EU into the UK during 2022.

Poultry Meat

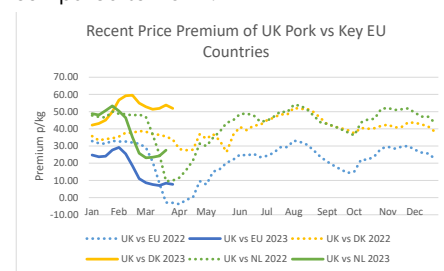
EU broiler price has continued to increase. US prices have started to increase again. Brazilian broilers are significantly cheaper than US and EU sources. The UK imported more EU poultry products during 2022 compared to 2021 - up 2.3%. EU imports increased 9.6% during 2022 compared to 2021 mainly from Brazil, Ukraine and Thailand.

Dairy

Dairy prices have come off their peaks with butter, milk, cream, cheddar and SMP prices coming down globally. Production of whole milk powder has reduced significantly (-8.4% Jan 23 compared to Jan 22). Australian milk production is down 6% compared to the previous year. Given the high feed costs many farmers are focusing on forage so watching the weather and grass growth will be key in the next month.

Pig Meat

The price premium between UK and key imported countries has started to increase again ahead of its usual pattern suggesting increased demand for British pork. There has been a significant decline in UK production with clean pig slaughtering below 800,000 for February - a level not seen since lock-down - levels are now 13% below the 5- year average. With slaughter weights 5kg lighter the pig meat production is actually down 21% compared to 2022.



EU pork production is at its lowest level for almost 10 years. Outbreaks of African Swine Fever combined with increased input costs has resulted in a decline in the key producing nations herds. There is expected to be a reduction in demand as the cost of living crisis continues to impact consumers.

African Swine Fever (ASF)

China is battling a new wave of ASF which appears to have started from the Chinese New Year holidays. Northern production areas are reporting ~50% infection rates. If these reports are to be believed then Chinese demand for imported pork will increase later this year.



Lamb

UK lamb imports dropped in January as a result of lower imports from New Zealand. Of the imports coming in, 17% are frozen lamb legs, 13.9% frozen boneless lamb meat, 26.7% are frozen or boneless sheep cuts. Given the demand for legs for Easter it may be worth keeping an eye on this area.

Beef

UK supplies are tight and prices have been strong as a result. Imports of fresh beef increased in January while frozen imports decreased. Imports of frozen German beef increased in January- 1250 tonnes. Imports from Brazil have also increased. Much of this beef is expected to go direct into the UK's food service market. Clearly there has been focus on imported beef sold as British into a UK supermarket, it is likely, given the economic pressures, that more imported would route into food-service.

Shrimp

A reduction in pond stocking and processors in India in response to falling prices has reduced output. Ecuador remains the major exporter with China overtaking the USA to claim the top spot as the top shrimp importer. Vannamei shrimp dominate the supply but, farmed black tiger shrimp have increased in Asia. Many Asian producers are moving into breaded products to insulate themselves from Ecuador's increasing production.

Cod & Haddock

The UK imported less haddock and cod in 2022 as a result of higher prices. Cod imports reduced 12% and haddock 11%. These price increases have affected fish and chip shops who have been actively encouraged to try other white-fish species such as Pacific hake.

Tuna

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation published a report "An Evaluation of the Sustainability of Global Tuna Stocks Relative to Marine Stewardship Council Criteria.". Only 8 out of 23 major commercial tuna fisheries were meeting Marine Stewardship Council standards.

Salmon

There has been a fast price increase in Norwegian salmon. High feed costs and higher than average mortality has resulted in earlier harvests - as a result the harvested weight of Norwegian salmon has reduced, Larger salmon are particularly short. Norway has proposed a 35% aquaculture tax. Easter demand has also helped Chilean salmon but Scottish salmon prices are coming down.

Crab

"Probable" whale entanglements have ended California's Dungeness crabbing season. Newfoundland snow crab quota has increased by 8.4% but negotiations on prices between harvesters and processors have broken down.

Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing

Oceana released a report "No Questions Asked" suggesting that almost 60% of US seafood imports escape scrutiny. Much of the imports into the US are from countries at high risk of IUU fishing. The report details key import species from high risk countries and which of these species are covered by the Seafood Import Monitoring Programme (SIMP).

CITES sanctions Mexico for failing to take action to protect the critically endangered vaquita porpoise.

Petfood

Petfood/Animal Feed In the News

Fish oil price has doubled as a result of the drop in production in Peru and the war in Ukraine.

The Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act means two factories producing L-Glutamine cannot export to the US this is likely to increase prices of other origins.

Given the issues reported in the news regarding food grade meats it is likely the pet food industry will be similarly affected. Reliance on audits may not be enough to provide assurance of supply chain integrity.

Education of pet owners is needed if novel materials, such as insect protein, are to be acceptable. A study by Pets International Magazine reported 47% of pet owners were unlikely to purchase pet food with insect protein.

Petfood RASFF Alerts

Exceedance of dioxins in fishmeal from Estonia, intended for animal feed.

Aflatoxin B1 in dairy sheep compound feed from Spain.

Salmonella in pet food from India.

High lead content in supplementary feed for dogs from Poland.

High lead content in supplementary feed for dogs from Germany.

Salmonella in raw petfood (lamb) from the Netherlands.

High content of Enterobacteriaceae in dog

chews from India.

Metal fragments (0.9 cm) in canned cat food from Thailand.

Salmonella spp. in pigs ears from Poland.

Microbiological deviation in hay for animals from Austria.

Purina recall on dry dog food in the US expanded for high vitamin D.

Stratford Care USA Inc. recalled Omega-3 supplements for cats and dogs because of possible elevated levels of vitamin A.

FDA issues Warning Letter to Arrow Reliance Inc. for failure to adequately control salmonella in cat food as per regulations.

Lead in complete feed for dogs from Germany.

Produce

Soft Fruit

Unfavourable weather has resulted in higher strawberry production costs in Egypt. Sudden temperature changes have resulted in higher inputs such as fertilizers and disease treatments. There has also been a move to adopt varieties from Spain, Italy and California that have higher disease resistance.

While the extent of the damage is unknown, a hard frost has hit Mississippi blueberry plants at the point of bloom. Flower losses are likely to result in a reduced crop this summer.

Suggestions of more than 3000 acres of strawberries affected by flooding in California's Salinas River and Pajaro River areas will impact availability. About 20% of farms in California were affected. Until the water levels subside the full extent of the damage is unknown.

There has been a significant increase in strawberry imports from Mexico into the USA driven by price differentials as well as supply and demand imbalances. Shipments of US produced strawberries - including organic strawberries, have reduced.

Top Fruit

Weather events in the Southern Hemisphere have reduced the apple and pear crop forecast by 1.25%. Apples are expected to increase from last season by 2.38% while pears are looking at a decline of 1.25%. These are both down from the original forecast. The change has primarily been driven by a reduction in apples from New Zealand and Australia following flooding.



Demand for Portuguese Rocha pears is outstripping supply even before the fruit has been harvested. The crop yield is estimated to be just 55% of last seasons harvest as a result of weather issues.

Top fruit orchards are being dug up in England as growing the fruit is no longer financially viable.

Stone Fruit

Imports of stone fruit into Europe are down, particularly shipments from Chile and South Africa. Plums from South Africa are small, this is likely to be the result of reduced irrigation resulting from disrupted electricity supply.

Citrus

Drought and an ongoing heatwave has delayed the citrus harvest coupled with crippling inflation (102% year-on year) which has pushed 40% of Argentinians into poverty. An agricultural state of emergency has been declared for Tucumans lemons providing tax relief for one year citing competition from Uruguay and South Africa.

Rain in California has halted the kumquat harvest resulting in a shortage in the market. Kumquat fruit cannot be harvested wet as pores in the fruit absorb surface dust resulting in the fruit rotting in a few days.

Californian Valencia orange crop down. Growers have pulled up over 1000 acres of orange trees since 2010. Florida has also seen a reduction in supply.

Bananas

EU banana prices are much higher than non EU origins. Ecuador banana production has reduced on the back of heavy rains damaging infrastructure. South Africa banana availability has tightened following flooding in Mozambique. UK supermarkets are working together to close the living wage gap in the banana supply chain.

Avocado

Tighter availability on smaller Mexican avocados, however, the Mexican crop estimate looks up on last year. Currently supply and demand in Avocados is out of balance as the market transitions from winter origin supply (Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Israel, Chile) to summer origins (Peru, Brazil, Africa). This imbalance is expected to last until after Easter.

Mango

Mango farmers in India have reported massive flower and fruit drop as a result of heat.

Exotics

Thailand is in the hot season with little rain. As a result coconut production has reduced. Demand from China is increasing, prices continue to increase as demand outweighs supply.

Grapes

Supply reductions in grapes from Nashik, India. Unseasonal rains have resulted in a reduction of export volumes by ~50%. High levels of cracking in grapes has resulted in losses.

Downy mildew is affecting grapes in Australia. The wet conditions in Victoria (NSW) has resulted in damage to vineyards in the Murray Valley region. This has affected grapes destined for sultana production.

Melon

Honduran melon workers have been protesting over unsafe working conditions. Morocco has overtaken Italy as the second largest watermelon supplier into the EU. (Spain is the largest supplier).

Tomatoes, Peppers & Cucumbers

Tomato production in Xinjiang is down 20%. China's ketchup comes mainly from Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia. Production reduced as a result of the pandemic and the increase in energy prices. Xinjiang is one of the main tomato producing areas in China.

A review of data from the FAO in 2021, the price for peppers paid to farmers in Morocco was 78% cheaper than the price paid to farmers in Spain. Similarly, the price paid to farmers in Turkey was 76% cheaper than Spain. The Netherlands has the most expensive peppers at 1.16 euros per kg, followed by Israel (1.14 euros) and France (1.13 euros). Spain was 1.12 euros/kg with Turkey 0.26 euros/kg and Morocco just 0.24 euros/kg.

Morocco had banned tomato exports from March 18-22 in a bid to reduce domestic prices. Restrictions had been in place since late February. A lower export quota of 700 tonnes a day then comes into effect. Higher priced cherry tomatoes are not included in the restrictions.

The Turkish government has limited the export of tomatoes until April 14th in response to increasing prices. They believe it is necessary to ensure food security and stabilize prices in the light of the earthquake. Countries that depend on imports from Turkey include Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Romania. Shortages in these countries should be expected.

Almeria's pepper campaign is coming to an end having been ~20% down on volume. Volumes are increasing from the Murcia region. The Netherlands production has been slow to start.

Cherry tomatoes continue to be short from Spain but availability seems good elsewhere.

Salad leaves

Flooding and storms in The Salinas Valley, where much of North America's lettuce and produce is grown, has resulted in flooded fields, damaged crops and delayed planting. As a result there is likely to be a supply gap in the coming weeks.

Potatoes

Farmers in East Anglia are concerned about another hot summer with water levels still to recover from last years drought. As a result many have switched from high risk irrigated crops such as potatoes, carrots, parsnips and onions switching into sugar beet.

Onions

India is planning a pilot study to irradiate onions going into storage to help reduce storage losses.

Onion production in Egypt is estimated to be down about 60% as farmers switch to other crops. This is compounding the supply challenges in Europe where a lack of water resulted in poor harvests.

Carrots

Five weeks after Cyclone Gabrielle hit Hawke's Bay, farmers are still counting the cost. The water logged ground has turned carrots into mush resulting in supply issues and a shortage of frozen carrots.

Spain reported higher demand than supply for organic carrots as production reduced.

Broccoli & Brassicas

Cold, wet weather in California has slowed kale growth. The impact of this is likely to be supply gaps in May.

Cauliflower continues to be in short supply as a result of poor weather conditions earlier in the year. This is expected to continue until the new crop in the summer.

Savoy cabbage has limited supply across Europe.

Herbs & Spices

Currently herbs are transitioning from the summer to the winter season crop in Africa resulting in some quality issues. Southern European crops are not affected by this.



Garlic & Ginger

The area of garlic in Spain will be reduced by around 20% in the next campaign, according to the estimate made by the General Assembly of the National Garlic Board as a result of drought and water access issues.

Shortages in ginger reported with Chinese production down 40-50% compared to last year, Brazilian season just about over. There is some supply from Peru but virtually no organic available.

Asparagus

Cold weather and lack of sun has slowed asparagus production. Larger volumes of Dutch supply are some time away and the same situation is expected in the UK. Production in Granada (Spain) has stalled as frost stops asparagus growth. The cold weather has damaged much of the production. As a result intermittent supply may require continued imports from Mexico and Peru will be needed to bridge the gap.

Nuts

Wet and cold weather in Australia has reduced the almond harvest by 25-35% from initial forecasts on the non pollinated varieties. Pollinated crops harvest later, currently there are no estimates for yields.

US almond shipments are above the previous February record, however, yields are expected to be down over 13% compared to last season.

High rainfalls have resulted in a bumper macadamia nut crop in Australia. Prices have reduced as a result.

Honey

Varroa mites have been detected in Australia. Australia had been the only continent free of varroa mite, a parasite that has destroyed bee colonies globally.

Sugar

Rising cost of sugar driving inflation in drinks and sweets. A poor sugar beet harvest will result in higher levels of sugar trading.

Wine

Glass bottle shortages are a concern with supplies reducing ~20% over the last 3 years. An increasing move to alternative containers is likely. The floods in Hawk's Bay and Gisbourne regions of New Zealand have left much of the grapes unharvestable. These regions account for about 9% of New Zealand's total wine production.

Beer

Shortages of CO2 and aluminium have

increased prices. The impact of these is likely to be increased prices.

Cocoa

A new report finds that only 11% of chocolate companies surveyed can fully trace where their cocoa comes from and on average, 40% of cocoa is purchased indirectly.

Rice

The threat of El Niño phenomenon in Asian regions threatens rice production. The Philippines and Indonesia are concerned over shortages. South Vietnam has also warned of issues.

Grains

Russia and the Ukraine have agreed to extend the grain deal allowing exports of grain and sunflowers from the Black Sea ports by another 60 days.

India has forecast heat-waves for the coming months raising concerns over the wheat crop which is at a vulnerable stage.

Flooding in New Zealand has affected the maize crops.

The FAO reports that early indications suggest a decline in wheat production in 2023.

In the UK animal feed demand has reduced faster than anticipated as high input costs squeeze margins.

Palm Oil

New EU legislation will require traders of commodities like palm oil and soy to be able to prove that their suppliers are not sourcing raw materials through the illegal conversion of forest areas. The traceability required will increase prices and trade disruption is likely.

Olives & Olive Oils

Greek Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) is currently ~9% cheaper than Spanish and 21% cheaper than Italian EVOO. Production forecasts have again been revised down in Spain with estimates now sub 700,000t for the 2022/23 crop year down from its 2019 high of almost 1.8 million tonnes. Italy and Portugal have also been affected by the drought in 2022 with reduced volumes. Greece was unaffected by the weather conditions and will offset some of the decline from Italy and Spain- but not enough. Tunisian production is also expected to decrease by about 15%. Price is likely to increase, but on the flip side, demand is expected to reduce as global consumer prices increase.

Demand for organic olive oil is growing with predictions it could reach >10% of the

sector total by 2030, up from the current 6%.

Vegetable Oils

Record imports of rapeseed and sunflower seeds combined with close to a record rapeseed crop in the EU has taken the shine off the prices. Vegetable oil prices have reduced considerably. Demand for biofuels is likely to pressure cooking oils later in the year, especially as Argentinean production this year. The impact of this will be felt later in the season. There are some concerns over rainfall deficit in some parts of Europe which may reduce rapeseed yields.

General

Modern Slavery & Human Rights

More than 200 people were rescued from wine vineyards in Brazil where they had been violently repressed to maintain their employment.

Sustainability

One of the world's largest palm oil producers, Golden Agri-Resources, has announced it is giving up its membership of the High Carbon Stocks Approach. Threatening its commitment to No Deforestation, No Peatland and No Exploitation (NDPE).

An investigation by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism and others found tens of thousands of cattle raised on farms damaging tropical forests were processed at abattoirs connected to international collagen supply chains. This is the first investigation to connect bovine collagen with tropical forest loss and violence against Indigenous peoples. At least 2,600 sq km of deforestation was linked to the supply chains of two Brazil-based collagen operations.

IPPC's climate emergency "final warning" report was published.

A study found heavy metals in sampled plants that had been irrigated from the nearby Mngeni River near Durban, South Africa.

Cotton

India has become a net importer of cotton having been the second largest exporter. The impact of the climate crisis has resulted in a shorter growing season, reduced irrigation, and higher pest attacks. As a result if the imbalance in supply and demand India has resorted to importing cotton.



Packaging

Aluminium cans and glass bottles in short supply likely to affect a wide range of products

Gene-editing

The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act passed into English law. This allows farmers to grow crops and animals that have been produced through precision breeding technologies without the need for compliance with the regulatory requirements applicable for GMO's. There will be a public register of organisms used for research and for marketing. There will be a science based authorisation process for food and feed products derived from precision breeding. This law has not been adopted by Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

PFAS

Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) reported in seafood suggests a growing issue with environmental contamination by PFAS. Two clam recalls due to detectable levels of per and polyfluoroalkyl substances were reported last year.

Study shows that PFAS 'Forever chemicals' in plastic packaging starts contaminating food within a week.

Morocco

Citrus, blueberries, tomatoes and other fruit and vegetable from Morocco have all seen big reductions in volumes as a result of a combination of issues (drought, cold, disease etc). As a result of this importers reliant on sourcing from Morocco are having to look elsewhere for supplies. Many have focused on Turkey.

India

Heat in India is likely to reduce fruit and vegetable outputs by 30%.

Concerns have been raised over calcium carbide use in India for ripening fruit. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said it has already prohibited the use of calcium carbide, also known as Masala, as a ripening agent for artificial ripening of fruits as per the provision in sub-regulation. They are warning traders, fruit handlers and food businesses not to use calcium carbide but to use approved ethylene.

Spain

Spain is extending its season for veg/ salad crops to try and cover the gap until Northern Europe production comes through. The yields are down though and there is produce coming into Spain from Jordan and Turkey.

Egypt

It is likely Egypt will devalue its currency against the US\$ for the third time this year. It has already halved in value since war broke out in Ukraine and revealed insecurities in the country's finances.

Weather

La Niña has ended and ENSO-neutral conditions are expected to continue through the Northern Hemisphere spring and early summer 2023. Currently there is a chance of El Niño forming during summer 2023 and persisting through the autumn. El Niño brings dryer and warmer weather to northern US and Canada with wetter weather in the Gulf Coast. It also reduces up-swell in the ocean meaning less nutrient comes to the surface reducing the phytoplankton and therefore impacting fish stocks.

Testing Solutions for Current Challenges - ORIGIN CLAIMS

We have accredited tests available for testing for consistency of claimed origin. We have a range of tests available - some of the most pertinent at present would be; British Isles Beef, Scottish Beef, GB and Irish Pork (including ham, bacon and high meat content sausages), UK and NZ lamb, UK chicken, UK eggs, UK tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, UK asparagus, Italian, Spanish and Greek olive oils and so many more!

We take great pride in the integrity of our reference databases. We physically collect samples directly from abattoirs or from growers so we are assured of the authenticity of the reference material. We ensure the databases are reflective of commercial production both in terms of geographical spread and production methods. Food Forensics are recognised as a Centre of Expertise for authenticity testing.

We have a flyer explaining a little more about SIRA/isotope testing for origin if you would like a copy just [Contact us](#) and we can email this to you.

If you would like more information on the testing, available tests or to arrange testing [Contact us](#)

IN THE NEWS: March

Grocery

Undeclared sulphites on dried grated coconut from Sri Lanka. Coconut sugar products were recalled in France due to undeclared sulphites. Coconut blossom sugar recalled in France due to undeclared sulphites.

Unauthorised additive E466 (Carboxymethyl cellulose) in cocoa flavoured powder from China.

Thousands of sacks of flour claiming to be Washington Gold Hard Wheat Flour were

seized following product quality complaints. The flour was found not to be Washington Gold Hard Wheat Flour and the labels on the sacks were also fake.

Chinese rice treated with additives sold as Jasmine rice. The Thai factories were using imported Chinese rice and treating it with food additives to make it smell like Thai Jasmine rice. Forged certification marks were also reported.

Honey

From the hives- a report published following

EU coordinated action led by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), with the national authorities of 18 countries who are part of the EU Food Fraud Network, OLAF and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre into honey authenticity. In the report were results of honey tests. 133 businesses (70 importers and 63 exporters) were found to be involved in consignments of honey suspected of being adulterated. A further 44 operators have been investigated.

The Unique Manuka, Factor Honey

FOOD RISK UPDATE NEWSLETTER April 2023



Association (UMFHA) tested 41 non NZ honey claiming to be Manuka. 100% failed the NZ monofloral Manuka honey test, 32 had no detectable manuka DNA, 32% failed the potency claim 82% failed the CODEX quality requirements of 40mg/kg HMF, 100% failed the 2-MAP test and 63% failed the 4-HPLA test.

Herbs and Spices

800kg of unhealthy spices together with samosa rolls were seized during a raid as part of the government crackdown on fraud in Pakistan. Non food grade colour and bran were seized from a spice unit.

Several reports of high levels of pyrrolizidine alkaloids in oregano (Greece and Poland).

Branded turmeric recall in Germany due to presence of ethylene oxide above the regulatory limit.

More than 3 tonnes of adulterated cumin was seized in India after a tip off.

Ethylene oxide in Fennel Seed powder from India.

Red chilli contaminated with adulterated ingredients was seized in Pakistan. The chilli has been supplied to small general stores and hotels.

Dairy

Egg recalled in Sweden due to risk of salmonella.

More than 1 million litres of substandard or adulterated milk have been disposed of in Pakistan by the Punjab Food Authority over the last year. Multiple reports of milk seized for adulteration again this month.

Produce

A consignments of organic Lemon Juice from Italy was refused admission into the US as it appeared to have been adulterated.

Two people are on trial in Spain for fraud after taking 700t of oranges from farmers knowing they could not pay for them.

Ecuador ports struggle with drugs in banana shipments with 14.7t of drug seized from 4 ports in the first 3 months of 2023.

A labelling error was reported with Aldi selling British mushrooms with the Red Tractor logo but with the small print listing the origin as Poland. An investigation concluded the mushrooms were produced in Scotland.

Protein

Unauthorized additive in meat tenderizer Curcumin in Portugal (E100).

The UK National Food Crime Unit investigate

beef fraud. Pre-packed slices of beef and deli products were packaged as if they were from the UK when they were actually from elsewhere in Europe and South America, were being sold in a UK retailer. The NFCU has said that three arrests have been made following an unannounced visit to a premises linked to a food fraud investigation into beef origin fraud. Loscoe Chilled Foods confirmed it is part of beef fraud investigation and has now gone into administration with all staff laid off.

Following the reported beef origin, the Farmers Weekly have reported a whistleblower reporting thousands of tonnes of imported pork sold as British as well as washing of viably off hams and blending of rotten pork with fresh products.

Seafood

8.5t of fresh and frozen octopus from Spain was seized in Portugal for lack of traceability documentation.

A seafood trader was fined \$250K for false labelling of shark fins as lobster in shipments to China. They also labelled Florida spiny lobster as frozen fish and Nicaragua and Belize lobsters as Florida spiny lobster.

Tuna frozen on unauthorised vessels from the USA.

A Singapore supplier was found guilty of storing more than 20,000 kg of date expired mouldy meat and seafood products. Some of which had gone out of date some 10 years earlier.

Irregular documentation and poor transport conditions of japonica clams from Portugal.

Beverage

Some Spanish red wine was recalled in the Czech Republic for adulteration with the synthetic dye azorubin E122.

Mogu Mogu Mango juice recalled as the product contains SY yellow (E110) and tartrazine (E102) dyes, which were not listed on the packaging. The product was produced in Thailand.

Unapproved food additive Orange II in herbal liqueur from Serbia.

Oils and Fats

Mineral oil (MOAH) in palm oil from Guinea.

MOSH and MOAH in sunflower oil from Ukraine.

Mineral oil components (MOSH and MOAH) in rice oil from Thailand.

A red alert has been issued over the increase in palm oil adulteration in Nigeria. The palm

oil is adulterated with water and colourants as well as other chemicals.

Substandard oil packed as Extra Virgin in Portugal

UK

A published paper investigation Food Fraud and mitigating strategies during Covid reported that participating food businesses did not experience food fraud during Covid 19. (Didn't experience - or didn't detect?).

Europe

Meat and fish products were affected by operator suspensions in Portugal until violations were corrected.

Further afield

Pakistan PFA discards pickles, ghee and khoya under various brand for unhygienic conditions.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency report on testing with issues found in fish, honey, oils and spices.

Pepsico has asked supplier to avoid buying palm oil from Indonesia-based conglomerate Astra Agro Lestari, following allegations linked to deforestation and related human rights concerns.

World Economic Forum Global Risk Report 2023 presenting the results of the latest Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS) was published.

Manufacturer Marion Biotech has come under fire following the deaths of 18 children suspected of consuming its cough syrup Dok-1 in Uzbekistan. Laboratory tests found 22 out of 36 samples to be adulterated with ethylene glycol or diethyl glycol.

Raids on a warehouse in the Philippines uncovered suspected smuggled seafood and poultry. Items found included golden pompano, pangasius fillets, fish tofu, boneless pork ham, frozen pork legs, chicken drumsticks, pork spare ribs, squid rings, crayfish, pork ears, pork hinges, bologna, brawley beef, pork aorta, chicken feet, and pork riblets. The frozen seafood came from China and the meats from Brazil, Australia, the USA and Russia.

USA releases details of proposed rules on the use of "Product of USA" claims. The proposed rule allows the voluntary "Product of USA" or "Made in the USA" label to be used on meat, poultry, and egg products only when derived from animals born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States.

Cyber criminals sold fake franchises including KFC and another 27 companies.



FOOD SAFETY: March

Country No of Alerts

France	63
United States	25
Spain	22
India	19
Italy	17
Poland	15
Turkey	15
Germany	14
Australia	12
Belgium	9
Egypt	9
Luxembourg	8
New Zealand	8
Austria	7
China	7
United Kingdom	7
Canada	6
Nigeria	6
Vietnam	6
Netherlands	6
Ireland	5
Pakistan	5
Kenya	5
Latvia	4
Bangladesh	4
Iceland	3
Thailand	3
Brazil	3
Denmark	3
Czechia	3
Sri Lanka	3
Uzbekistan	3
Sweden	3
Tanzania	3
Mexico	2
Jordan	2
Georgia	2
Morocco	2
Tunisia	2
Lithuania	2
Lebanon	2
Algeria	2
Ukraine	2
Serbia	2
Afghanistan	2
Philippines	2
Colombia	2
Ecuador	2
Croatia	1
Russian	1
Singapore	1
Peru	1
Iran	1
Malaysia	1
Uganda	1
Greece	1
Romania	1
Argentina	1
Finland	1
Albania	1
Costa Rica	1
Syria	1
Namibia	1
South Africa	1
Yemen	1
Taiwan	1
Rwanda	1
Portugal	1
Slovakia	1
Kazakhstan	1
Norway	1
Guatemala	1
Côte d'Ivoire	1

Total 384

SUMMARY

There were **291 Red**, **64 Amber** and **28 Green** for a total of **383 safety alerts and product recalls*** in March.

The majority of alerts were for microbiology and pesticide contamination (34.7% and 18.5% respectively).

133 micro alerts (49% Salmonella, 23% Listeria); Norovirus accounted for 7% due to issues with Molluscs.

71 Pesticide alerts (25% Chlorpyrifos, 13% unknown).

Top 3 number of alerts by commodity

1. Produce: Peppers, chili, oranges

2. Poultry: Chicken, turkey

3. Seafood: Shrimp, oyster, crab

Top 3 number of alerts by county of origin

1. France: Seafood, pork, cheese

2. USA: Nuts, feed, prepared

3. Spain: Seafood, feed, spices

*Safety alerts & product recalls compiled from RASFF, FDA, AFSCA, CFIA, Rappel Consommateur, potraviny na pranyr, SFA, CFS, MPI, FSAI & Food Standards AU

Follow us on Social Media

Food Forensics Ltd

@food_forensics

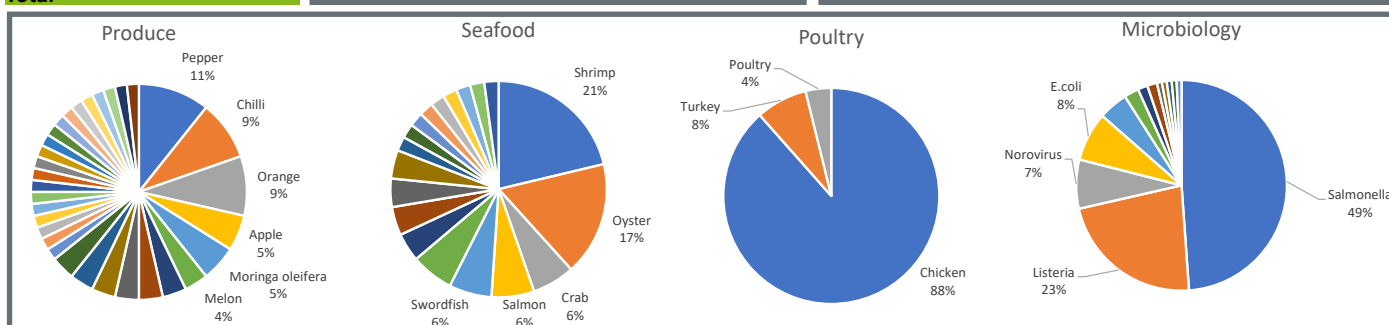
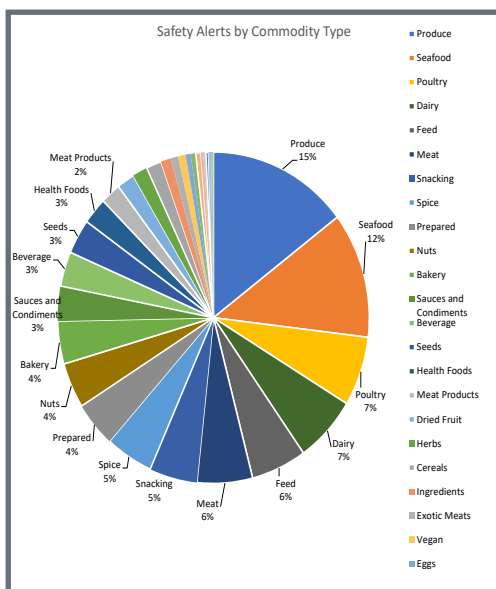
Contact us

For more information about Knowledge Base, Testing & other services.

+44 (0)1603 274456

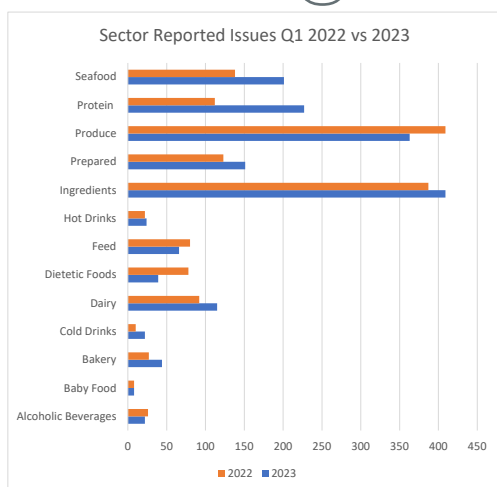
info@foodforensics.co.uk

<https://www.foodforensics.co.uk/>

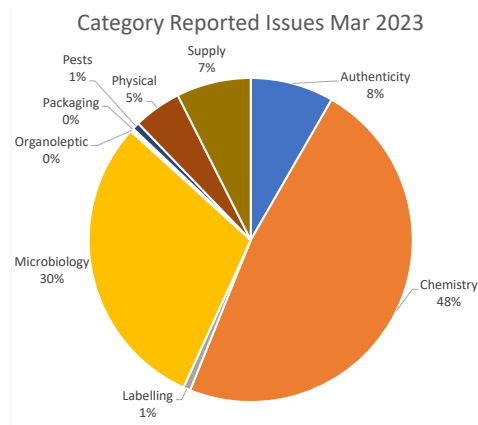
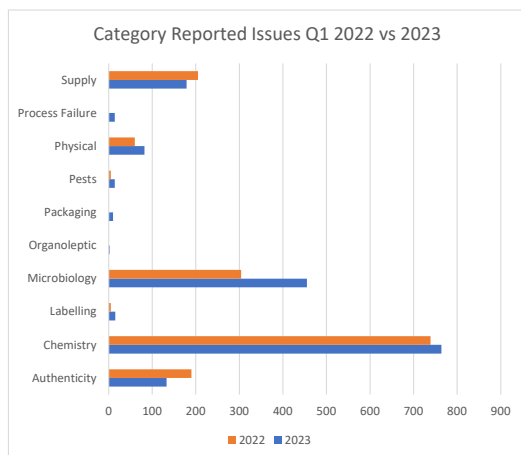
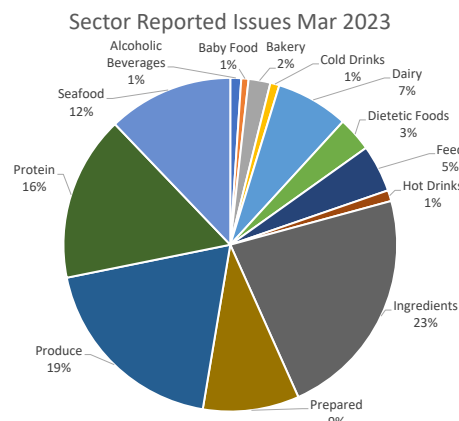




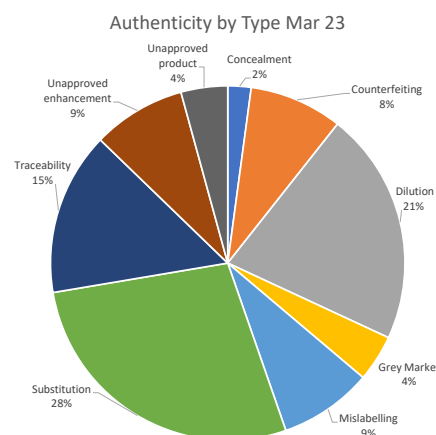
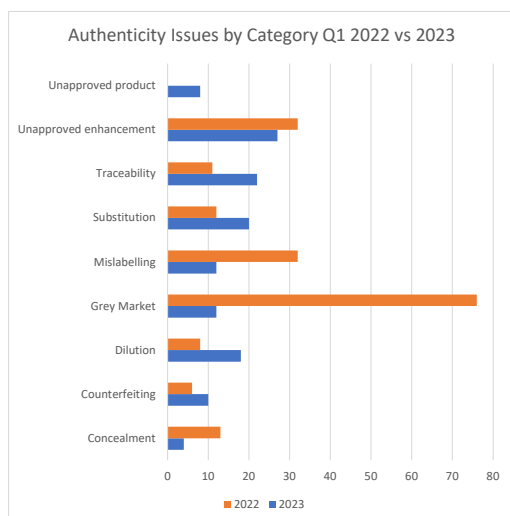
Knowledge Base Trends



Increases in issues reported in seafood and protein in Q1 compared to Q1 last year. Increase seen this month compared to last month.



Big increases in microbiology issues detected Q1 vs Q1 2022. This month increases in chemistry, microbiology and authenticity but a reduction in supply issues.



Increase in traceability, substitution, unapproved products and dilution. This pattern is consistent with that seen this month.

This information comes from the on-line Food Forensics Knowledge Base platform. If you are interested in access to Knowledge Base and would like a (no pressure) 15 min demo please contact Barry.Hilton@foodforensics.co.uk or info@foodforensics.co.uk