



Imprint

BfR Consumer Monitor 02|2022

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Max-Dohrn-Straße 8–10
10589 Berlin
bfr@bfr.bund.de
www.bfr.bund.de/en

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Introduction

The BfR Consumer Monitor is a central instrument in consumer health protection. Every six months, it provides answers to the question of how the general public perceives topics from the field of consumer health protection on the basis of a representative population survey. Which topics are important in the view of the consumer? Which topics are they familiar with and what do they know less about? And last but not least – how is the safety of food and other products in Germany generally rated?

In this first survey of 2022, specific constellations of nutrients again are most frequently mentioned as health risks for consumers, for example a high content of sugar, fat, or salt in food. Moreover, risks from nicotine and alcohol consumption concern people more than they did last year. More than half of the respondents are concerned about antibiotic resistance as well as microplastics in food – both topics on which many feel com-

paratively well informed. Despite these concerns, 50 percent of the respondents currently rate food in Germany as safe, and 44 percent think that food safety will continue to increase in the future. The population currently trusts consumer centres and organisations as well as science the most to protect the health of consumers.

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

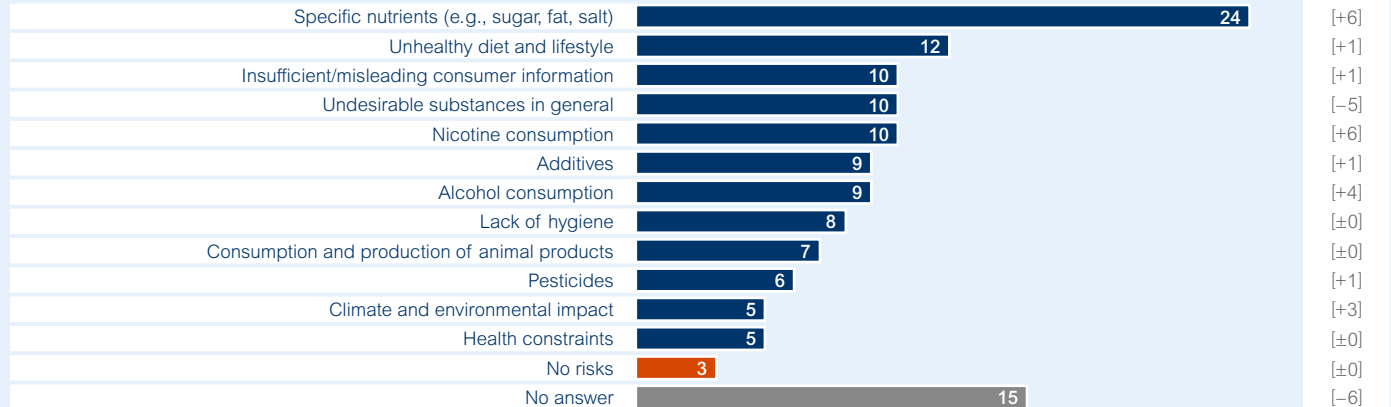


In your opinion, what are the biggest health risks for consumers?

When a person buys or uses food or other products, he or she is a consumer.

You can name up to three risks.


Health risks for consumers



Mentions without predefined response options

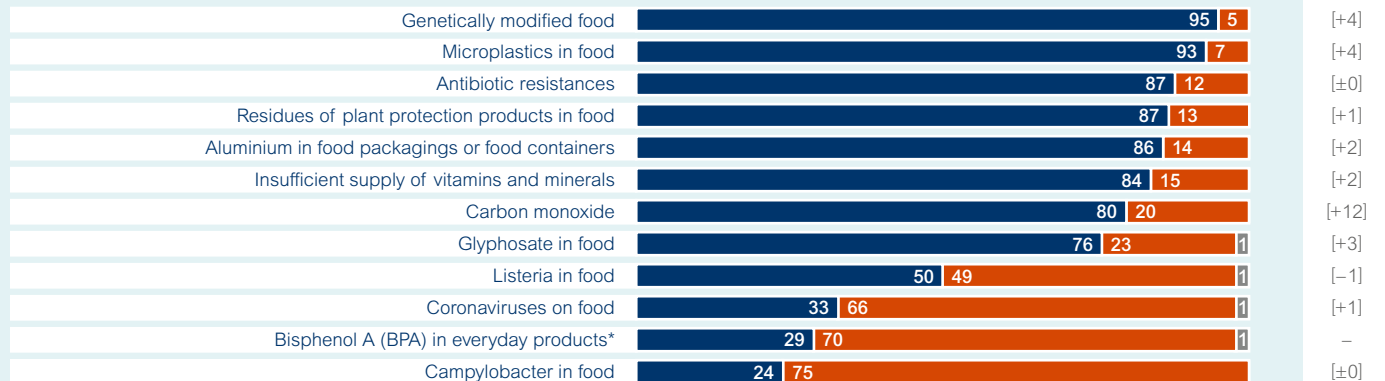
Shown: Risks spontaneously mentioned by at least 5 percent of respondents

Basis: 1,002 respondents; Figures given in percentages
[compared to 08/2021: percentage points]



Have you heard of the following
consumer health topics before?

Familiarity with consumer health topics



■ heard of it before
 ■ not heard of it before
 ■ no answer

Response options: "yes, I have heard of it before", "no, I have not heard of it before"

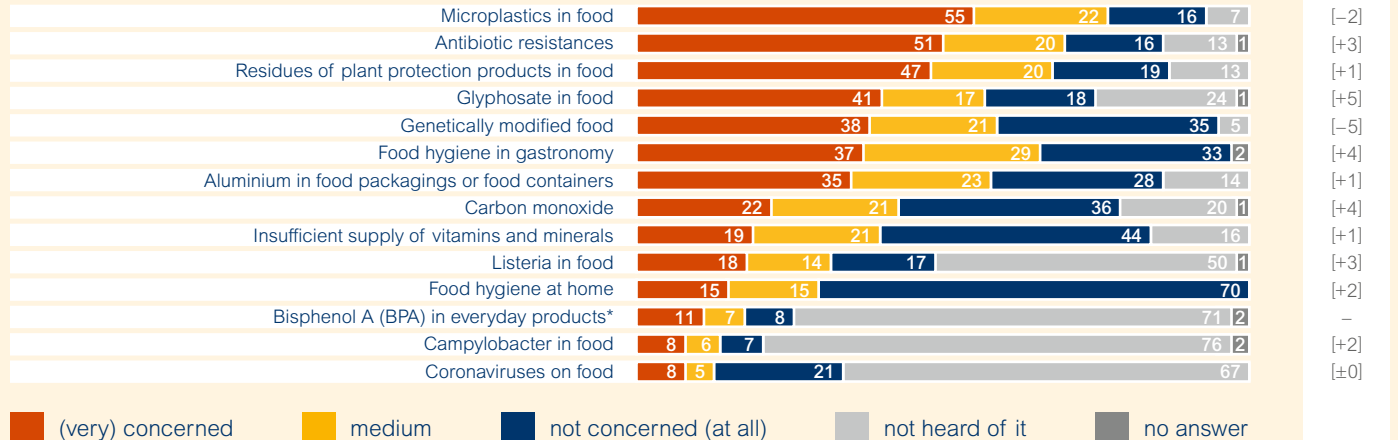
* surveyed for the first time

Basis: 1,002 respondents; Figures given in percentages
 [compared to 08/2021 refers to "heard of it before": percentage points]



How concerned are you personally about the following consumer health topics?

Concern about consumer health topics



Response scale: 1 "not concerned at all" to 5 "very concerned"

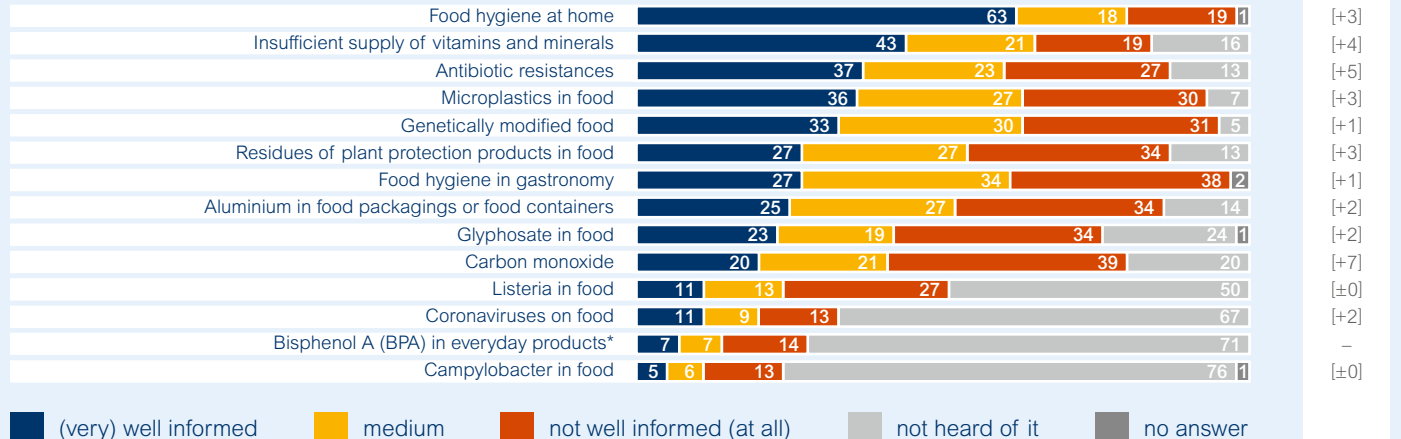
* surveyed for the first time

Basis: 1,002 respondents; Figures given in percentages
 [compared to 08/2021 refers to "(very) concerned": percentage points]



How well informed do you feel about
the following consumer health topics?


Perceived level of information about consumer health topics



Response scale: 1 "not well informed at all" to 5 "very well informed"

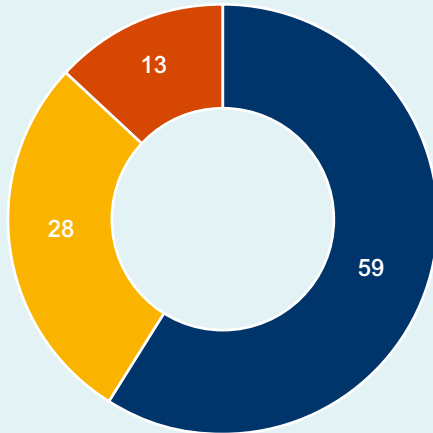
* surveyed for the first time

Basis: 1,002 respondents; Figures given in percentages
 [compared to 08/2021 refers to "(very) well informed": percentage points]

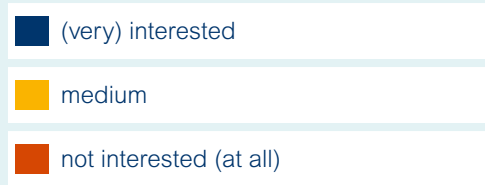


How interested are you in consumer health topics in general?

Interest in consumer health topics



Response scale: 1 "not interested at all" to 5 "very interested"



Compared to 08/2021

[+3]

[-1]

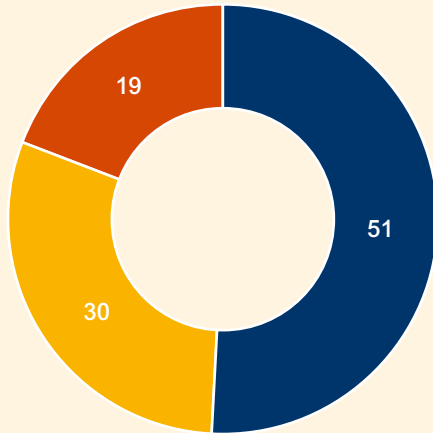
[-2]

Basis: 1,002 respondents; Figures given in percentages [compared to 08/2021: percentage points]



How often do you inform yourself about
consumer health topics?

Information frequency



Response options: "never", "rarely", "now and then", "often", "very often"



Compared to 08/2021

[+7]

[-6]

[-1]

Basis: 1,002 respondents; Figures given in percentages [compared to 08/2021: percentage points]



The government relies on various measures to protect consumers from health risks.

How important do you personally consider the following governmental measures to be?

Relevance of governmental measures



Response scale: 1 "not important at all" to 5 "very important"

Basis: 1,002 respondents; Figures given in percentages
 [compared to 08/2021 refers to "(very) important": percentage points]



How do you generally rate the safety of the following products that you can buy in Germany?


Product safety



(very) safe
 medium
 not safe (at all)
 no answer

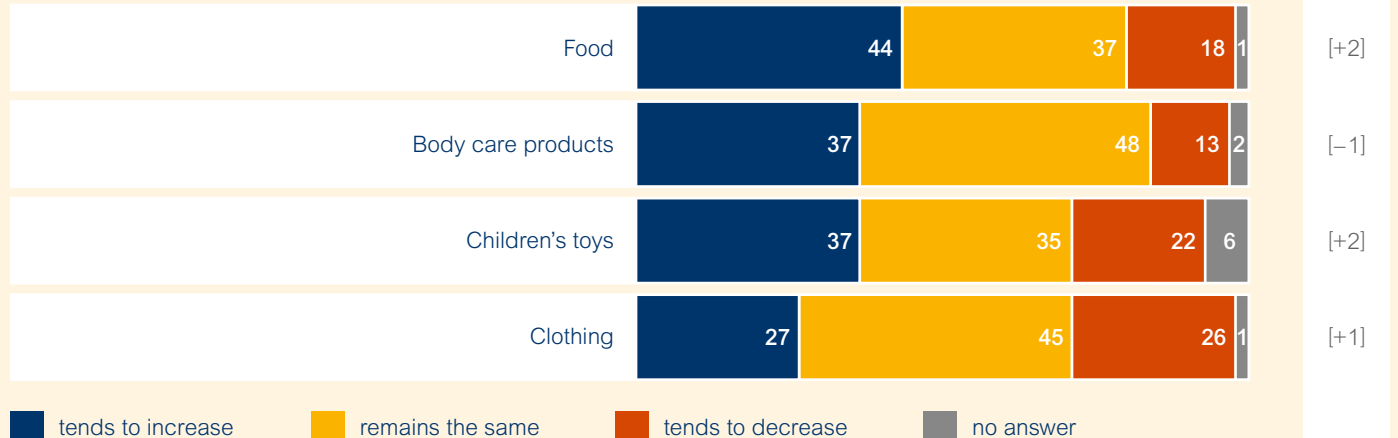
Response scale: 1 "not safe at all" to 5 "very safe"

Basis: 1,002 respondents; Figures given in percentages [compared to 08/2021 refers to "(very) safe": percentage points]




In your opinion, does the safety of the following products that you can buy in Germany tend to increase, tend to decrease or remain the same?

Changes in product safety



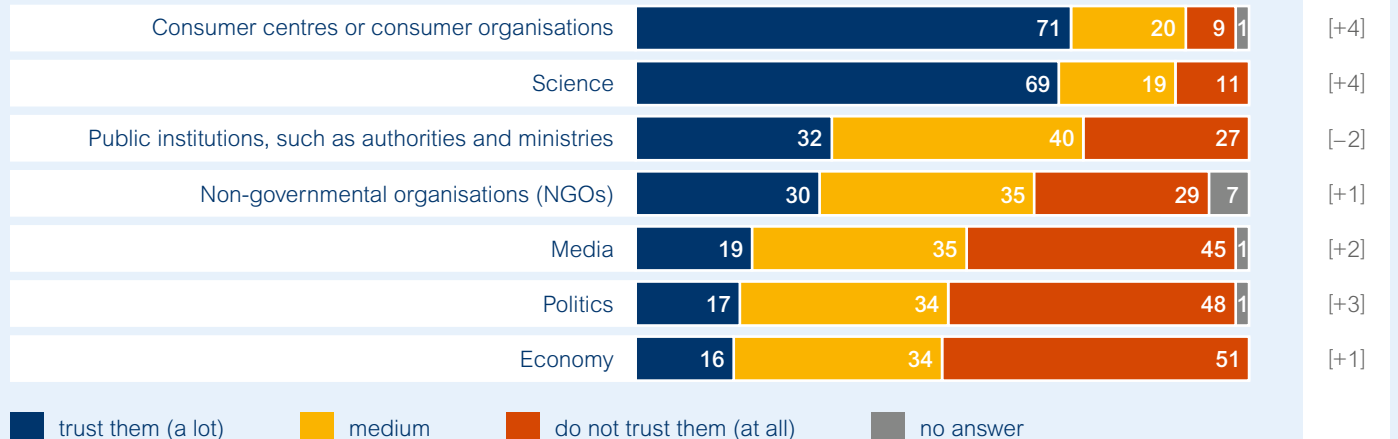
Response options: "tends to decrease", "remains the same", "tends to increase"

Basis: 1,002 respondents; Figures given in percentages
 [compared to 08/2021 refers to "tends to increase": percentage points]



How much do you trust the following entities
in Germany to protect the health of consumers?

Trust in health protection



Response scale: 1 "I do not trust them at all" to 5 "I trust them a lot"

Basis: 1,002 respondents; Figures given in percentages
 [compared to 08/2021 refers to "trust them (a lot)": percentage points]

How were the data collected?

Survey period:	7 to 11 February 2022
Number of respondents:	1,002
Population:	German-speaking population aged 16 years and over in private households in the Federal Republic of Germany
Representativeness:	Random sample of landline and mobile telephone numbers, which also includes telephone numbers not listed in telephone directories (in line with standards set by the Association of German Market Research Institutes – ADM) Data was weighted according to gender, education, age, employment, size of city, German federal state, and size of household
Survey method:	Telephone interview (CATI omnibus survey, dual-frame)
Presentation of results:	All figures given in percentages, rounding differences possible
Conducted by:	INFO GmbH

About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, or BfR for short, is responsible for answering questions on all aspects of the health assessment of foods and feeds, consumer products and chemicals. Through its work, it makes a decisive contribution towards ensuring that food, products and the use of chemicals have become safer in Germany. The Institute's main tasks comprise the assessment of existing health risks and identification of new ones, the development of recommendations to limit risks and the transparent communication of this process.

This work results in the scientific advice given to political decision makers. To help with the strategic alignment of its risk communication, the BfR conducts its own research in the field of risk perception. The Institute is independent in its scientific assessments, research and communication. The BfR belongs to the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

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

Aluminium:

> **A-Z Index** > **A** > **aluminium**

Antibiotic resistances:

> **A-Z Index** > **A** > **antibiotics**

Bisphenol A:

> **A-Z Index** > **B** > **bisphenol A**

Campylobacter:

> **A-Z Index** > **C** > **campylobacter**

Carbon monoxide:

> **A-Z Index** > **C** > **carbon monoxide**

Coronaviruses:

> **A-Z Index** > **C** > **COVID-19/corona**

Genetically modified food:

> **A-Z Index** > **G** > **genetically modified foods**

Glyphosate:

> **A-Z Index** > **G** > **glyphosate**

Food hygiene:

> **A-Z Index** > **F** > **food hygiene**

Listeria:

> **A-Z Index** > **L** > **listeria monocytogenes**

Microplastics:

> **A-Z Index** > **M** > **microplastic**

Minerals:

> **A-Z Index** > **M** > **minerals**

Plant protection products:

> **A-Z Index** > **P** > **plant protection products**

Vitamins:

> **A-Z Index** > **V** > **vitamins**

German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)

Max-Dohrn-Straße 8–10
10589 Berlin
GERMANY

Phone +49 30 18412-0
Fax +49 30 18412-99099
bfr@bfr.bund.de
www.bfr.bund.de/en