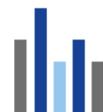




15 YEARS  
Science in the  
Service of Humanity

 **BfR**  
Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung



BfR Consumer  
**MONITOR**

**08 | 2017**

## **Imprint**

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## Introduction

The BfR Consumer Monitor is a major instrument of consumer health protection, providing answers every six months 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 don't they know so much about? And above all – to what extent do differences exist between the public perception and the scientific estimation of health risks?

The second survey conducted this year showed that smoking is still perceived as the greatest risk to health, followed by climate and environmental pollution, unhealthy or wrong diet, and alcohol. The results of this consumer survey are similar to those of previous surveys. One new question included in the latest survey concerned awareness of several disease pathogens in food. Salmonella are the best known pathogens, but there

is much less awareness of Campylobacter. The subject of the release of aluminium from menu trays, which two thirds of respondents were aware of, was also broached for the first time. Where product safety is concerned, consumers perceive toys, textiles and cosmetics to be safer than they did in February of this year.

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.



## Which topics do you personally regard as the biggest health risks for consumers?

You can state a maximum of three topics.

## Health risks for consumers



Shown: The ten most common spontaneously mentioned risks

Basis: 1,001; Figures given as percentages (compared to 02/2017: percentage points);

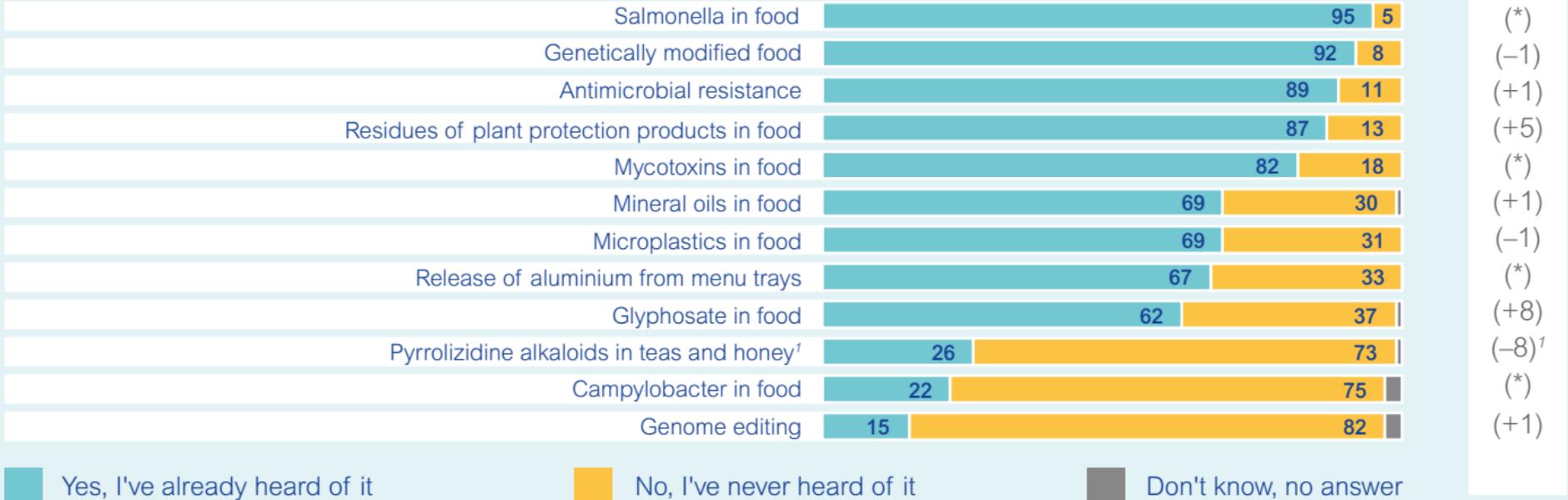
<sup>1</sup> Among others: consumption of digital media (1.2 %), television (0.8 %), the internet (0.7 %), lack of sleep (0.7 %);

<sup>2</sup> Not among the ten most frequently mentioned risks in 02/2017

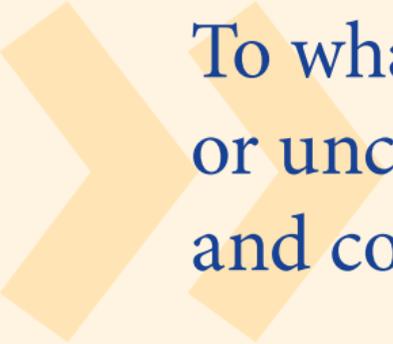


Have you already heard about the following health and consumer topics or have you never heard of them?

### Awareness of health and consumer topics



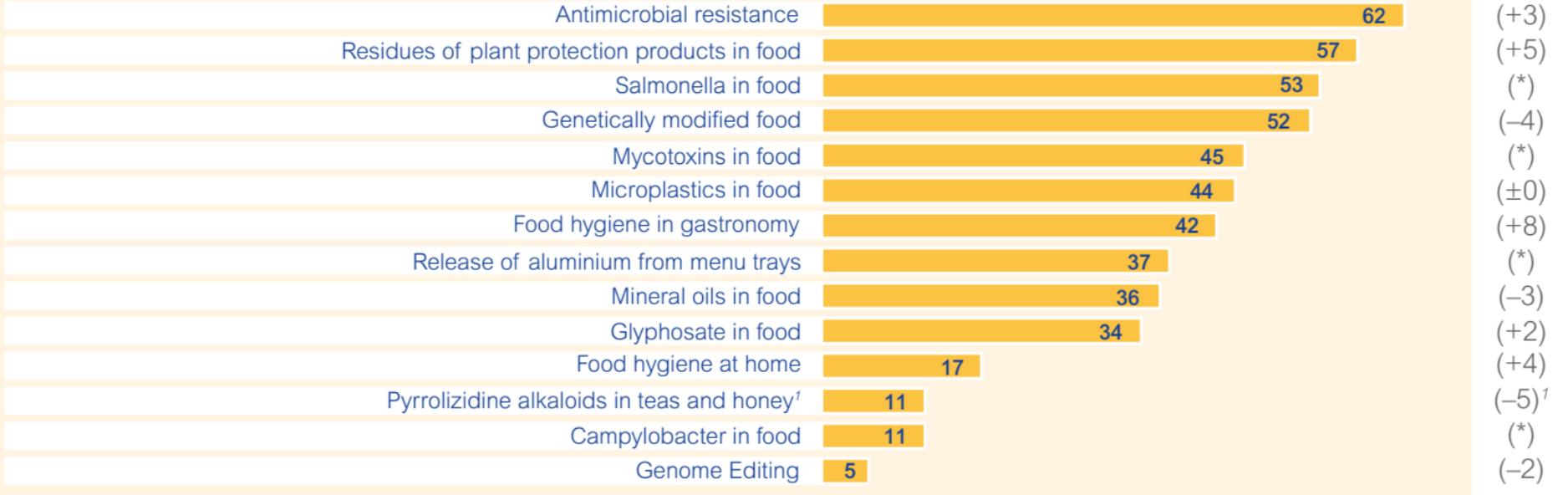
Basis: 1,001; Figures given as percentages (compared to 02/2017 refers to "already heard of it": percentage points);  
 \*Not asked in 02/2017; <sup>1</sup>Wording in 02/2017: "Pyrrolizidine alkaloids in herbal teas and teas"



## To what extent are you personally concerned or unconcerned about the following health and consumer topics?

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

### Concern about health and consumer topics



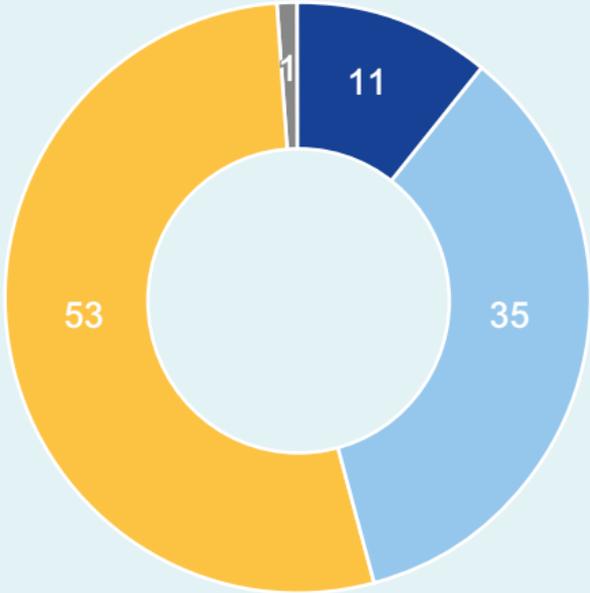
Shown: Percentage “concerned” (scale values 4 + 5)

Basis: 1,001; Figures given as percentages (compared to 02/2017: percentage points);  
 \*Not asked in 02/2017; <sup>1</sup>Wording in 02/2017: “Pyrrolizidine alkaloids in herbal teas and teas”



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

### Consumer health protection



	Compared to 02/2017
I assume that I can <b>assess health risks by myself</b> and do not need <b>any state institutions</b> for this.	(-1)
The state should provide <b>scientifically validated information</b> on the basis of which I can protect myself against health risks.	(+2)
The state should take <b>more concrete measures</b> such as bans and restrictions to protect me as a consumer from health risks.	(-2)
Don't know, no answer	(±0)

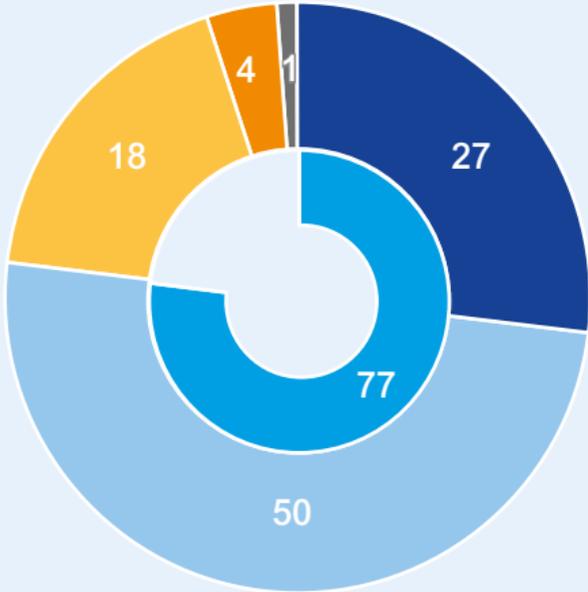
Basis: 1,001; Figures given as percentages (compared to 02/2017: percentage points)



## 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	(+5)
More safe than unsafe	(-1)
More unsafe than safe	(-6)
Unsafe	(±0)
Don't know, no answer	(+1)
Percentages "Safe" + "More safe than unsafe"	(+4)

*Compared to 02/2016*

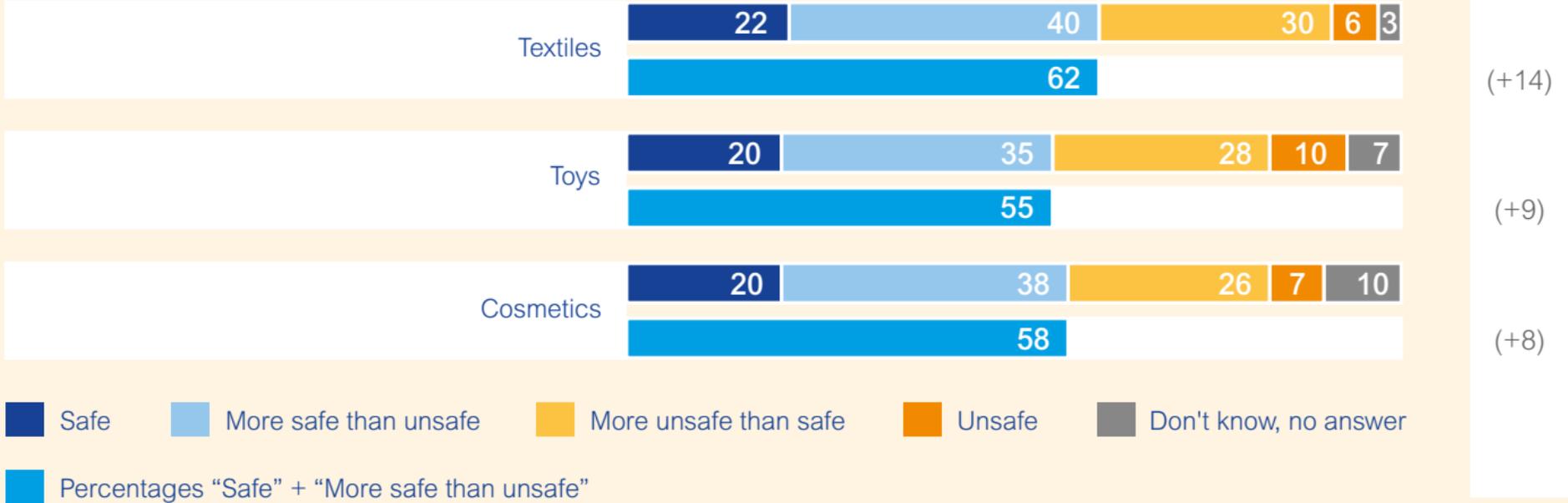
(+5)
(-1)
(-6)
(±0)
(+1)
(+4)

Basis: 1,001; Figures given as percentages (compared to 02/2016: 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

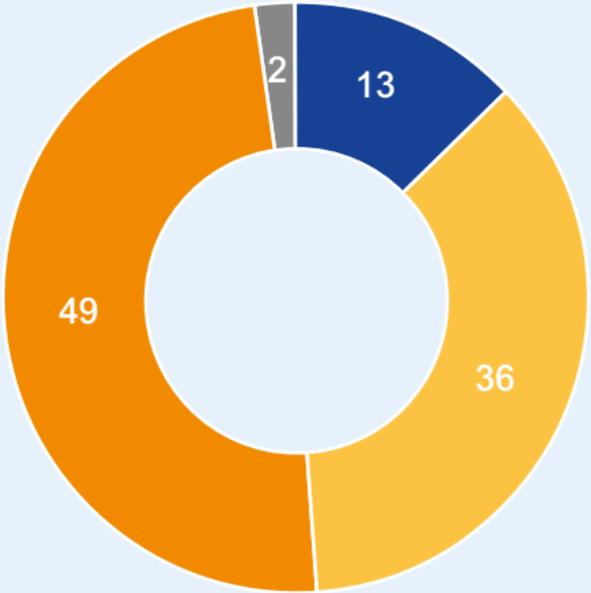


Basis: 1,001; Figures given as percentages (compared to 02/2017: percentage points)



Is the **quality** of our food tending to increase, decrease or stay the same in your opinion?

### Change in food quality



Tending to increase
Tending to stay the same
Tending to decrease
Don't know, no answer

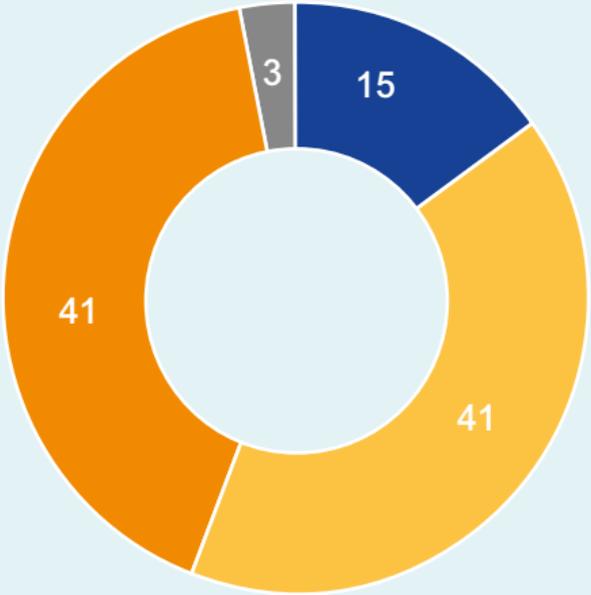
Compared to 02/2017*
(-5)
(+2)
(+3)
(±0)

Basis: 1,001; Figures given as percentages (compared to 02/2017: percentage points);  
\*Wording of the question 02/2017: Are the quality and safety of our foods increasing, decreasing or staying the same?



Is the **safety** of our food tending to increase, decrease or stay the same in your opinion?

### Change in food safety



Tending to increase
Tending to stay the same
Tending to decrease
Don't know, no answer

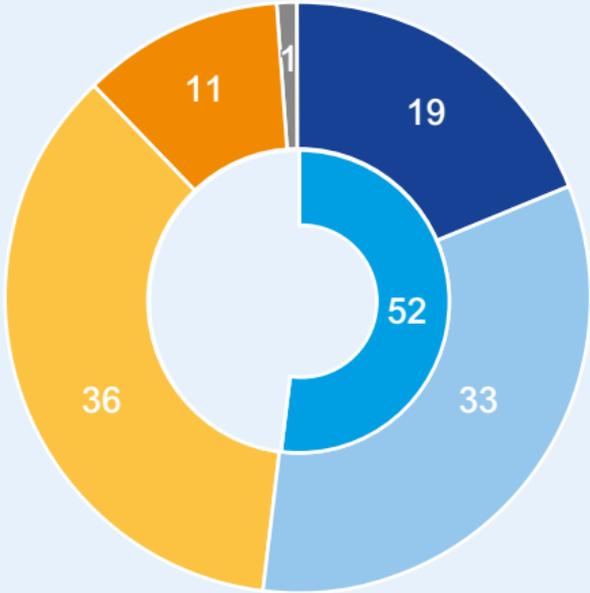
Compared to 02/2017*
(-3)
(+7)
(-5)
(+1)

Basis: 1,001; Figures given as percentages (compared to 02/2017: percentage points);  
\*Wording of the question 02/2017: Are the quality and safety of our foods increasing, decreasing or staying the same?



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 02/2017
I trust them	(+2)
I tend to trust them	(-1)
I tend to distrust them	(-3)
I don't trust them	(+1)
Don't know, no answer	(±0)
<b>Percentages "I trust them" + "I tend to trust them"</b>	<b>(+1)</b>

Basis: 1,001; figures given as percentages (compared to 02/2017: percentage points)

## How were the data collected?

<b>Date of the survey:</b>	25 to 31 July 2017
<b>Random sample:</b>	1,001
<b>Presentation of results:</b>	All figures in percent, rounding differences possible
<b>Population:</b>	German-speaking population aged 14 years and over in private households in the Federal Republic of Germany
<b>Sampling:</b>	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)
<b>Method:</b>	Telephone interview (CATI omnibus survey, Dual Frame)
<b>Conducted by:</b>	KANTAR EMNID
<b>Previous study:</b>	BfR Consumer Monitor 02 2017

## About the BfR

Do nanoparticles promote the occurrence of allergies? Does apple juice contain too much aluminium? 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. For 15 years now, its work has made 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).



More information at: [www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en)

Aluminium from menu trays:

> [FAQ](#) > [Aluminium in food and products intended for consumers](#)

Antibiotic resistance:

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

Campylobacter in food:

> [A-Z Index](#) > [Campylobacter](#)

Food hygiene:

> [A-Z Index](#) > [Food hygiene](#)

Genetically modified food:

> [FAQ](#) > [Food and feed derived from genetically modified organisms \(GMOs\)](#)

Genome editing:

> [FAQ](#) > [Genome Editing and CRISPR/Cas9](#)

Glyphosate in food:

> [FAQ](#) > [Assessment of the health risk of glyphosate](#)

Mikroplastics in food:

> [A-Z Index](#) > [Microplastic](#)

Mineral oils in food:

> [A-Z Index](#) > [Mineral oil](#)

Mycotoxins in food:

> [A-Z Index](#) > [Mycotoxins](#)

Pyrrolizidine alkaloids in teas and honey:

> [A-Z Index](#) > [Pyrrolizidine alkaloids](#)

Residues of plant protection products in food:

> [FAQ](#) > [Residues of plant protection products in food](#)

Salmonella in food:

> [A-Z Index](#) > [Salmonella](#)



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