



## **Imprint**

BfR Consumer Monitor 02|2020

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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 do they know less about? And above all – to what extent do differences exist between the public perception and the scientific estimation of health risks?

This first survey in 2020 showed that the topics climate/environmental pollution, unhealthy/wrong diet and smoking continue to top the list of the most commonly mentioned health risks for consumers. New in this survey were the more frequent spontaneous mentions of traffic, high quantities of plastics, and political and economic interests as health risks compared to previous years.

Awareness of most health and consumer topics rose slightly overall compared to the previous survey in August 2019. More respondents were concerned about the topic aluminium in food packaging, but less concerned about the topics mycotoxins in food as well as carbon monoxide. Overall, the topics microplastics in food and antimicrobial resistances continue to attract the highest levels of concern – in each case, more than 60% of respondents reported being concerned by these topics.

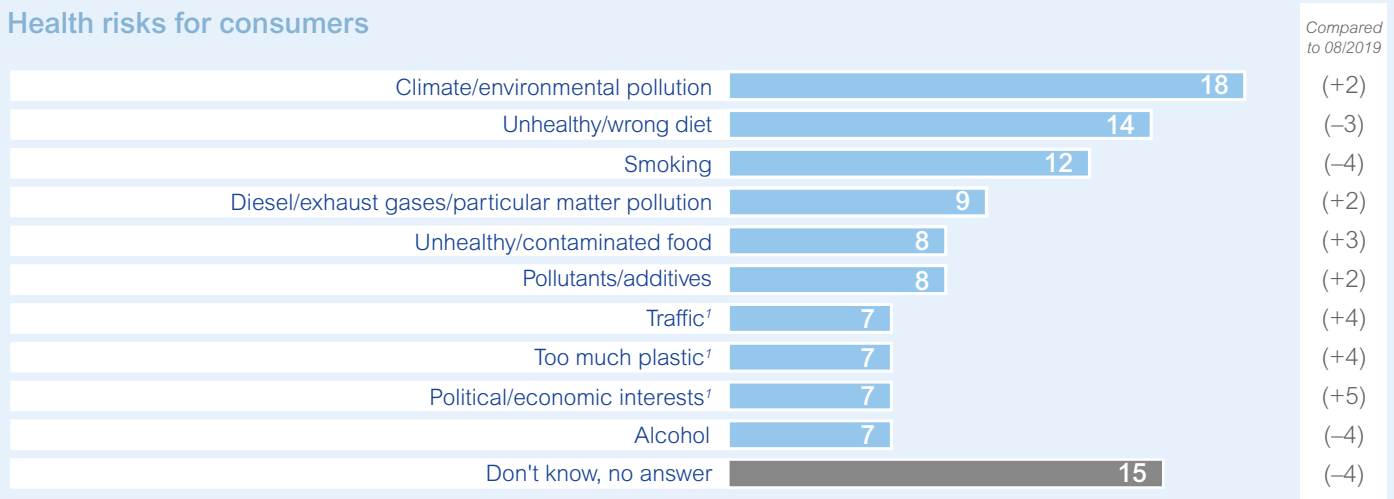
If you would like to find out more about the individual topics, you will find links to more detailed information on the BfR website on the last page of this booklet.



## 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;

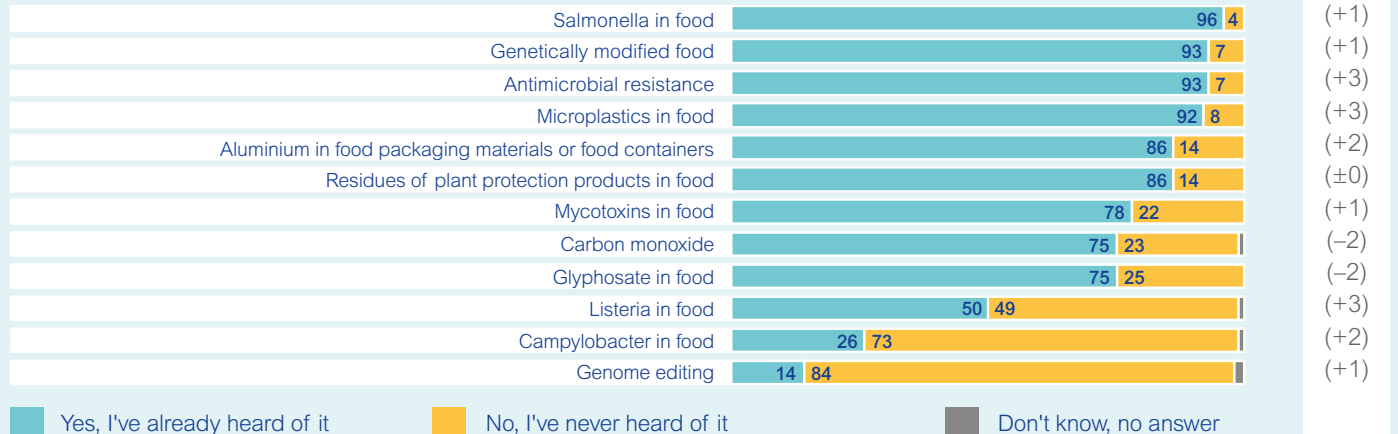
<sup>1</sup> Not among the ten most frequently mentioned risks in 08|2019

Basis: 1,122; Figures given in percentages  
(compared to 08/2019: percentage points)

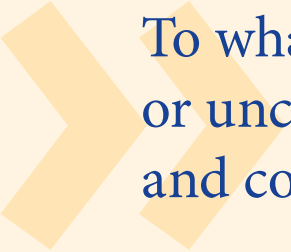


Have you already heard about the following health and consumer topics or have you never heard of them?

## Awareness of health and consumer topics



Basis: 1,122; Figures given in percentages  
 (compared to 08/2019 refers to "already heard of it": percentage points)

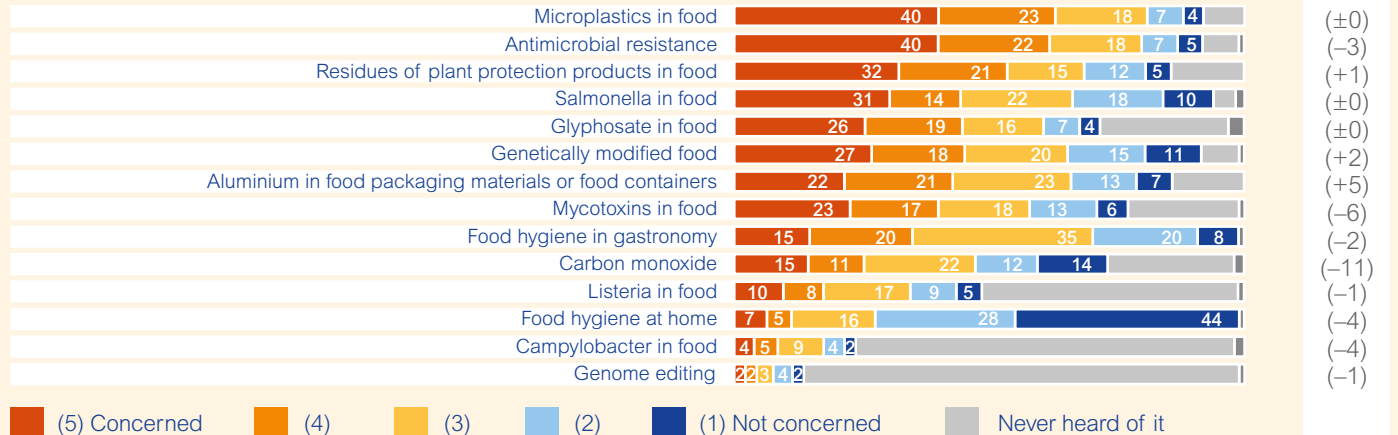


## To what extent are you personally concerned or unconcerned about the following health and consumer topics?

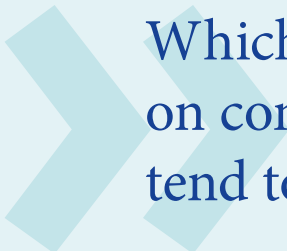
Please use a scale of 1 to 5 for your answer, with 1 representing “not concerned” and 5 representing “concerned”. You can graduate your opinion with the values in between.



## Concern about health and consumer topics

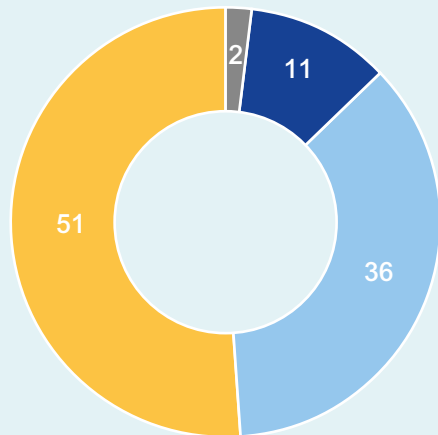


Basis: 1,122; Figures given in percentages (compared to 08/2019 the percentage for "concerned"/4 + 5 on the scale: percentage points)



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

## Consumer health protection



I assume that I can **assess health risks by myself** and do not need **any state institutions** for this.

*Compared to 08/2019*

(±0)

The state should provide **scientifically validated information** on the basis of which I can protect myself against health risks.

(+4)


The state should take **more concrete measures** such as bans and restrictions to protect me as a consumer from health risks.

(-4)

Don't know, no answer

(+1)

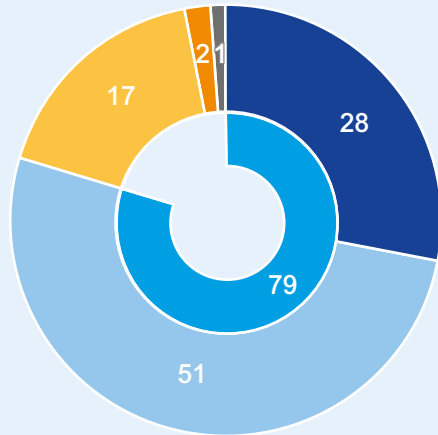
*Basis: 1,122; Figures given in percentages (compared to 08/2019: percentage points)*



## 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



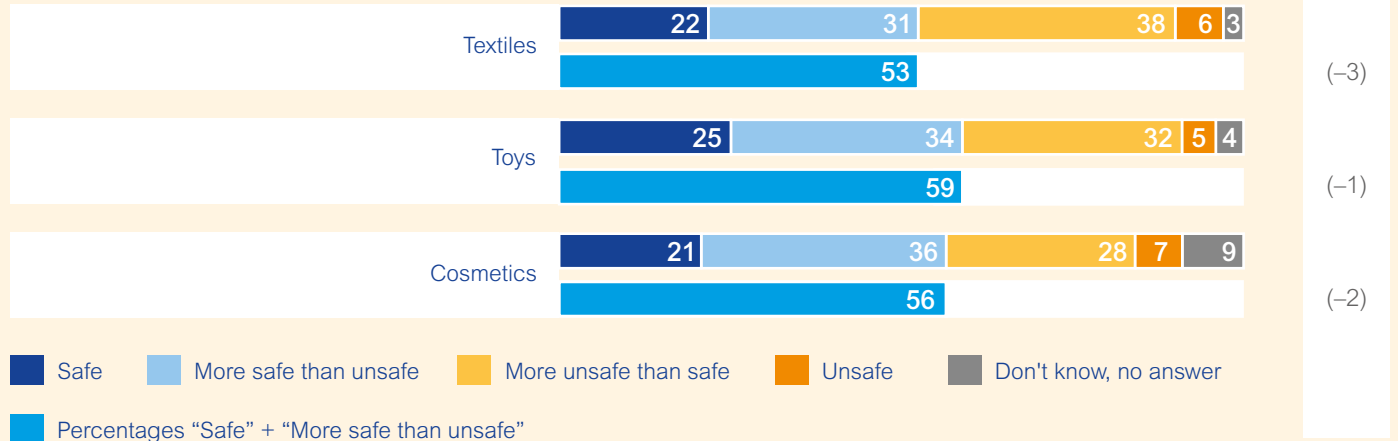
	Compared to 08/2019
Safe	(-1)
More safe than unsafe	(+4)
More unsafe than safe	(-3)
Unsafe	(-1)
Don't know, no answer	(±0)
<b>Percentages "Safe" + "More safe than unsafe"</b>	<b>(+3)</b>

*Basis: 1,122; Figures given in percentages (compared to 08/2019: 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



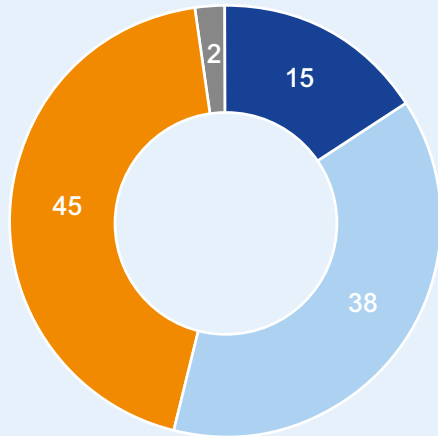
*Basis: 1,122; Figures given in percentages (compared to 08/2019: percentage points)*



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 08/2019


(-1)

(±0)

(+1)

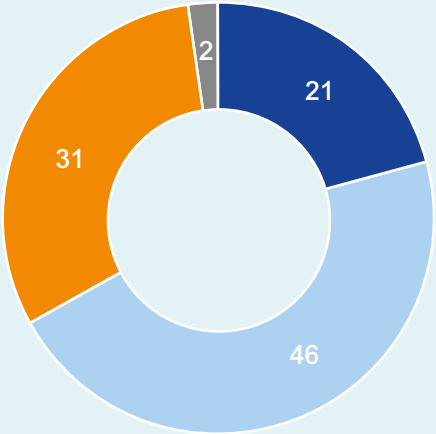
(±0)





Basis: 1,122; Figures given in percentages  
(compared to 08/2019: percentage points)



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 08/2019*

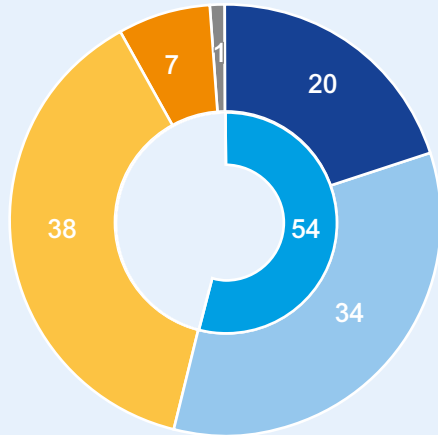
(+4)
(±0)
(-3)
(-1)

*Basis: 1,122; Figures given in percentages (compared to 08/2019: 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



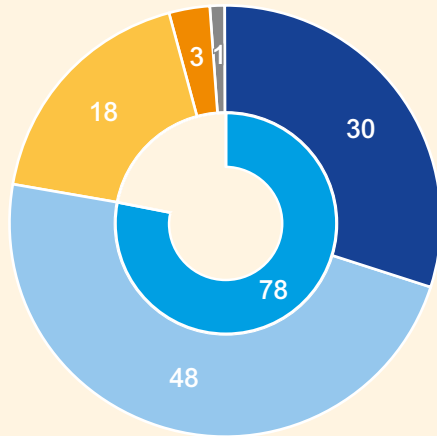
	<i>Compared to 08/2019</i>
<span style="color: #002060;">■</span> I trust them	(+4)
<span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span> I tend to trust them	(+1)
<span style="color: #FFA500;">■</span> I tend to distrust them	(-3)
<span style="color: #FF8C00;">■</span> I don't trust them	(-2)
<span style="color: #696969;">■</span> Don't know, no answer	(±0)
<span style="color: #00AEEF;">■</span> Percentages "I trust them" + "I tend to trust them"	(+5)

*Basis: 1,122; Figures given in percentages (compared to 08/2019: percentage points)*



How interested are you in consumer health topics?

## Interest in consumer health topics



	<i>Compared to 08/2019</i>
<span style="color: #003366;">■</span> I am very interested in them	(+3)
<span style="color: #6699CC;">■</span> I am quite interested in them	(-1)
<span style="color: #FF9900;">■</span> I am less interested in them	(-2)
<span style="color: #FF6600;">■</span> I am not at all interested in them	(-1)
<span style="color: #666666;">■</span> Don't know, no answer	(+1)
<span style="color: #0099CC;">■</span> Percentages “I am very interested in them” + “I am quite interested in them”	(+2)

*Basis: 1,122; Figures given in percentages (compared to 08/2019: percentage points)*

## How were the data collected?

<b>Date of the survey:</b>	29 January to 7 February 2020
<b>Random sample:</b>	1,122
<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>Data weighting:</b>	Data was weighted according to gender, education, age, employment, size of city and German federal state to guarantee representativeness
<b>Method:</b>	Telephone interview (CATI omnibus survey, Dual Frame)
<b>Conducted by:</b>	Kantar
<b>Previous study:</b>	BfR Consumer Monitor 08 2019



## 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. 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](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en)

Aluminium in food packagings or food containers:

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

Antimicrobial resistance:

> **A-Z Index > A > antimicrobial resistance**

Campylobacter in food:

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

Carbon monoxide:

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

Food hygiene:

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

Genetically modified food:

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

Genome editing:

> **A-Z Index > G > genome editing**

Glyphosate in food:

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

Listeria in food:

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

Microplastics in food:

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

Mycotoxins in food:

> **A-Z Index > M > mycotoxins**

Residues of plant protection products in food:

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

Salmonella in food:

> **A-Z Index > S > salmonella**



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**Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung**