



## Imprint

BfR Consumer Monitor 02|2016

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

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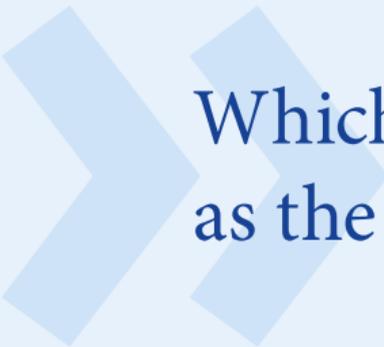
## Introduction

As a representative consumer survey, the BfR Consumer Monitor provides some important insights at 6-month intervals into how topics from the field of consumer health protection are perceived by the general public. For the work of BfR, it is of particular interest to determine if and to what extent the estimation of the general public deviates from the scientific estimation of health risks.

As was already the case in 2015, consumers regard climate and environmental damage and smoking as the greatest health risks, followed by unhealthy or poor diets and alcohol. Once again, major differences have been established where awareness of health and consumer topics is concerned. Well over half of the respondents are aware of plant protection products in fruit and vegetables, antimicrobial resistance and mineral oil in

body care products. There is also high awareness among the German population for the topics of microplastics in food and hormone-like substances in body care products. In contrast, only a relative low number of respondents have heard anything about lead in game meat and pyrrolizidine alkaloids in tea. Despite a slight increase since the last survey, the substance glyphosate used in plant protection products is still hardly known, which is surprising given the current public discussion on this substance. The same applies to the list of topics about which consumers are concerned: antimicrobial resistance still heads the list, while glyphosate in the food chain is in next to last place.

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



#### Spontaneous mentions

Shown: Mentions ≥ 5 % (multiple mentions possible)

Basis: 1,010; figures given as percentages (compared to 2015: 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

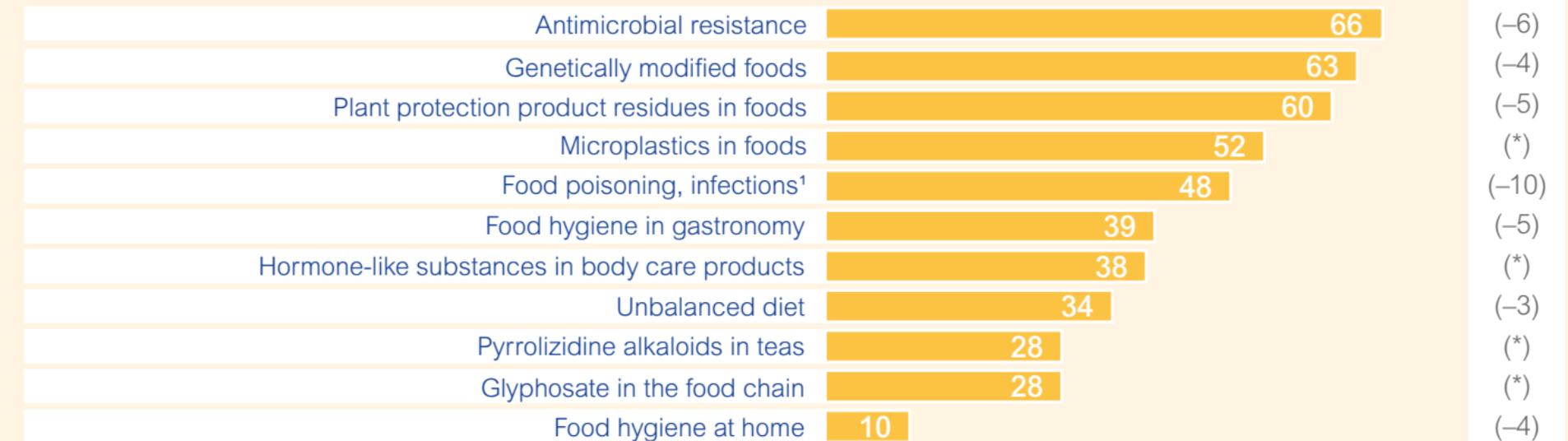


Basis: 1,010; figures given as percentages

# To what extent are you personally concerned or unconcerned about the following food safety 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 Food Safety Topics

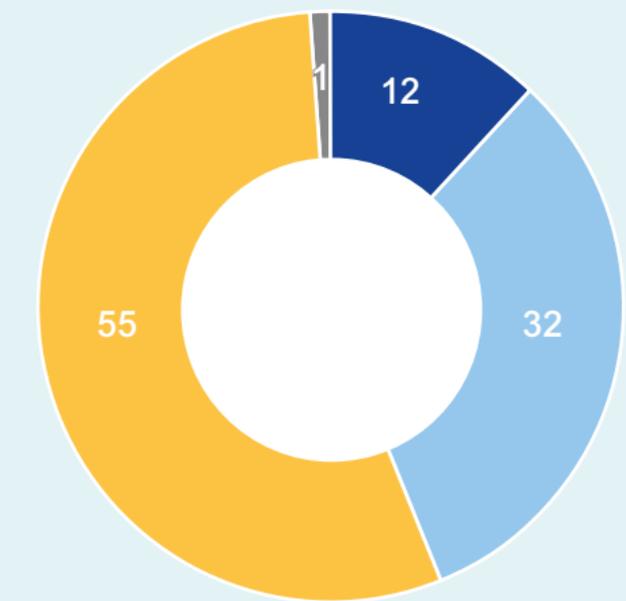


<sup>1</sup> In 2015 the wording was “food poisoning/foodborne infections caused by bacteria”

Shown: Percentage “concerned” (4 + 5 on the scale) Basis: 1,010; figures given as percentages (compared to 2015: percentage points); \*not asked in 2015

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.
- The state should provide **scientifically validated information** on the basis of which I can protect myself against health risks.
- The state should take **more concrete measures** such as bans and restrictions to protect me as a consumer from health risks.
- Don't know, no answer

*Compared to 2015*

(+1)

(-3)

(+1)

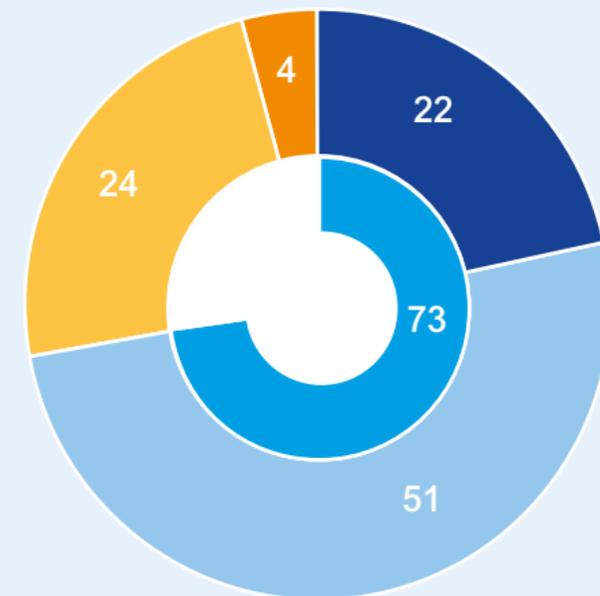
(±0)

*Basis: 1,010; figures given as percentages (compared to 2015: 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	(+3)
More safe than unsafe	(±0)
More unsafe than safe	(-2)
Unsafe	(±0)

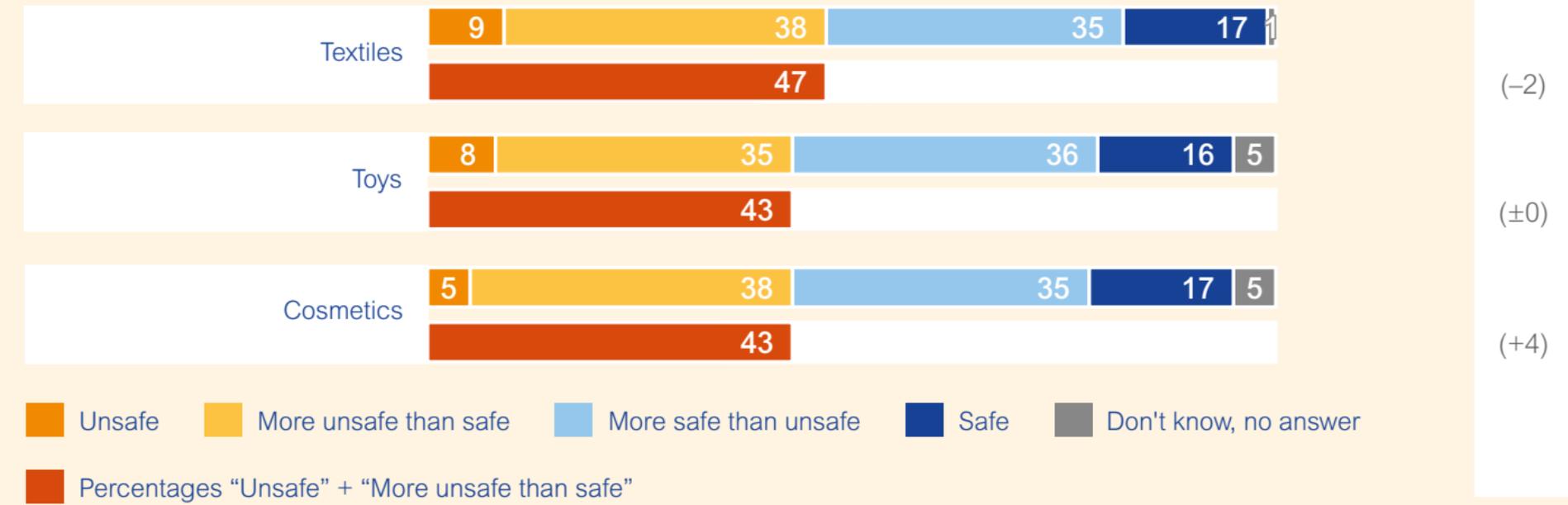
Percentages "Safe" + "More safe than unsafe"	(+3)
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Compared to 2015
(+3)
(±0)
(-2)
(±0)
(+3)

Basis: 1,010; figures given as percentages (compared to 2015: percentage points)

And how do you estimate in general the safety of the following products which you can buy in Germany?

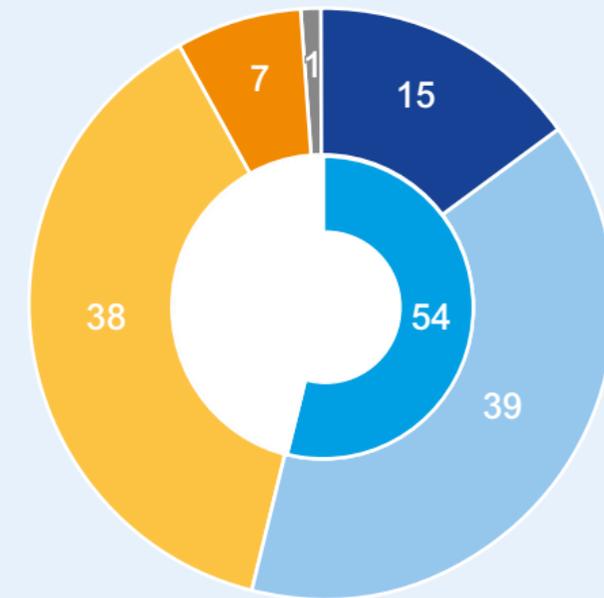
Safety of products offered for sale in Germany



Basis: 1,010; figures given as percentages (compared to 2015: 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 trust them	(±0)
I tend to trust them	(-2)
I tend to distrust them	(+2)
I don't trust them	(-1)
Don't know, no answer	(+1)
<b>Percentages "I trust them" + "I tend to trust them"</b>	<b>(-2)</b>

Compared to 2015

Basis: 1,010; figures given as percentages (compared to 2015: percentage points)

## How were the data collected?

<b>Date of the survey:</b>	20 to 27 January 2016
<b>Random sample:</b>	1,010
<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>Methode:</b>	Telephone interview (CATI omnibus survey, Dual Frame)
<b>Conducted by:</b>	TNS Emnid
<b>Previous study:</b>	BfR Consumer Monitor 06 2015

## About BfR

Do nanoparticles promote the occurrence of allergies? Does apple juice contain health-damaging aluminium? The Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) evaluates possible health risks of foods, feeds, consumer articles and chemicals. With its work, it makes a decisive contribution towards ensuring that food, products and chemicals in Germany are becoming safer. The Institute is independent in its scientific assessments, research and communication. It is the scientific institution of the Federal Republic of Germany which prepares opinions and statements on food and feed safety issues, as well as the safety of substances and products. By doing so, the Institute makes an important contribution towards improving consumer protection and food safety. BfR reports to the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

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

*Residues of plant protection products in fruit and vegetables:*

**> FAQ > Residues of Plant Protection Products in Food**

*Antibiotics resistances:*

**> A-Z Index > A**

*Mineral oil in body care products:*

**> A-Z Index > Mineral Oil**

*Hormone-like substances in body care products:*

**> FAQ > Risk Assessment of Cosmetic Products**

*Microplastic in foods:*

**> Publications > BfR-Opinions > 2015 > 13/2015**

*Lead in game meat:*

**> A-Z Index > Game Meat**

*Pyrrolizidine alkaloids in teas:*

**> A-Z Index > Pyrrolizidine alkaloids**

*Glyphosate:*

**> FAQ > Glyphosate – Assessment of the health risk**

**Federal Institute for Risk Assessment**

Max-Dohrn-Straße 8–10  
10589 Berlin  
GERMANY

Phone +49 30 18412-0  
Fax +49 30 18412-4741  
[bfr@bfr.bund.de](mailto:bfr@bfr.bund.de)  
[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en)



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