 BfR Consumer
MONITOR

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Imprint

BfR Consumer Monitor 02|2017

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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 scientific estimation of health risks?

In this first survey of 2017, it can be seen that – as in previous years – consumers regard smoking, climate and environmental contamination, unhealthy or wrong eating habits and alcohol as the biggest health risks. Huge differences can again be seen where the level of awareness of health and consumer topics is concerned. The vast majority of the population is aware of ge-

netically modified foods, antibiotic resistance, food fraud and residues of plant protection products in food. There has also been a sharp increase with regard to glyphosate in food compared to last year's survey, with a slim majority of respondents now being aware of the topic. Pyrrolizidine alkaloids in herbal teas and teas are still relatively unknown, as is genome editing, which ranks last in the awareness scale surveyed here.

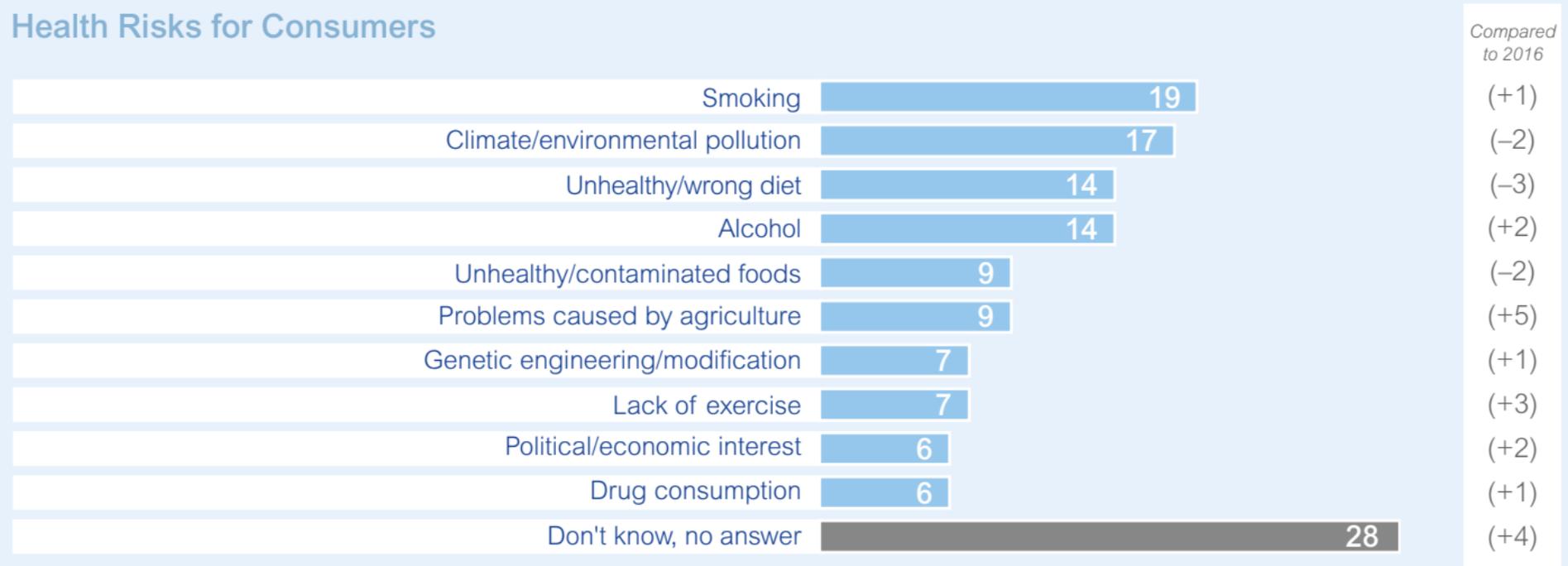
If you want to find out more about any of these topics, you will find links to more detailed information on the BfR website on the last page of this booklet.



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 $\geq 5\%$ (multiple mentions possible)

Basis: 1,023; figures given as percentages (compared to 2016: 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



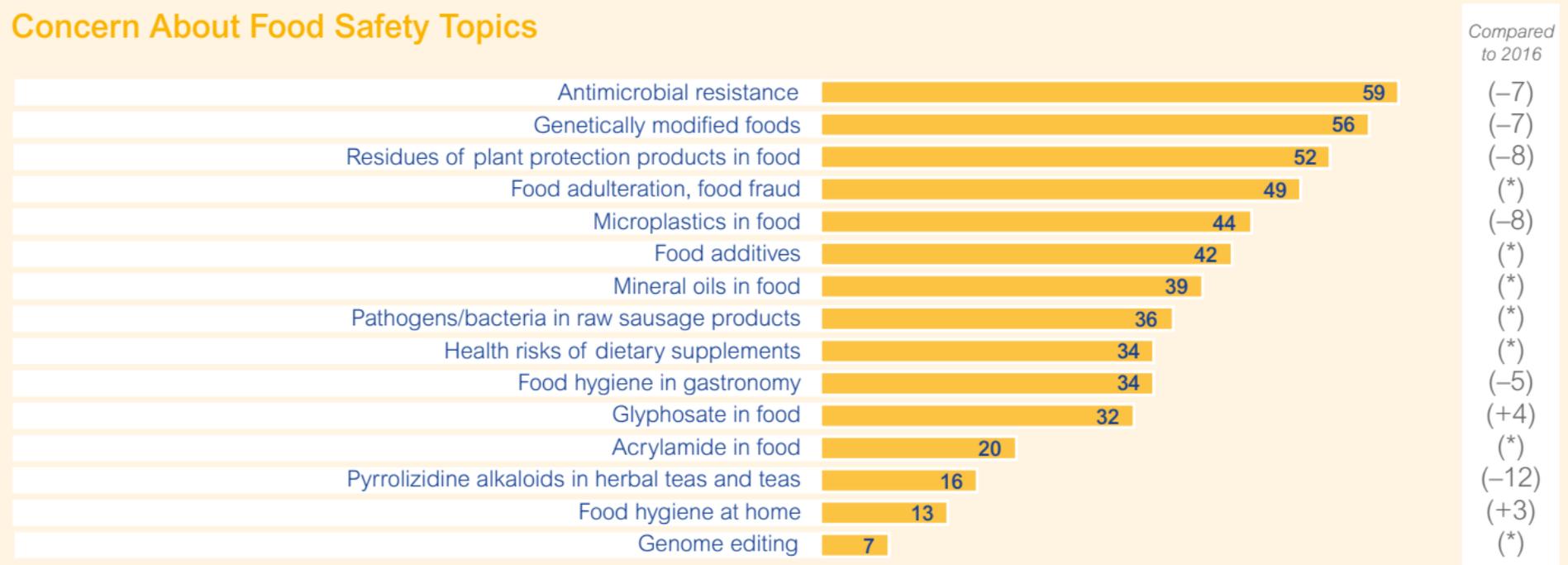
Basis: 1,023; figures given as percentages (compared to 2016 refers to „already heard about“: percentage points); *not asked in 2016;
¹ Wording in 2016: Plant protection product residues in fruit and vegetables; ² Wording in 2016: Glyphosate



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



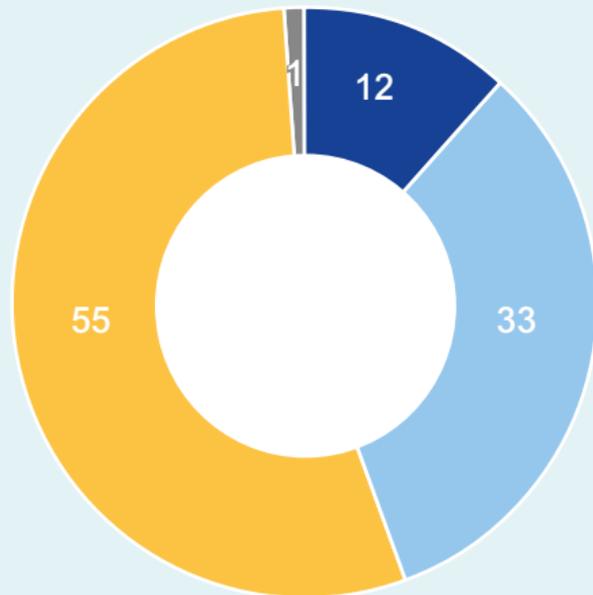
Shown: Percentage “concerned” (4 + 5 on the scale)

Basis: 1,023; figures given as percentages (compared to 2016: percentage points); * not asked in 2016



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 2016

(±0)

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

(+1)

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

(±0)

Don't know, no answer

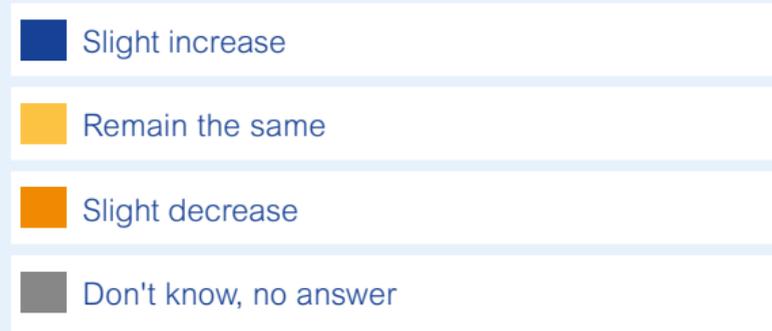
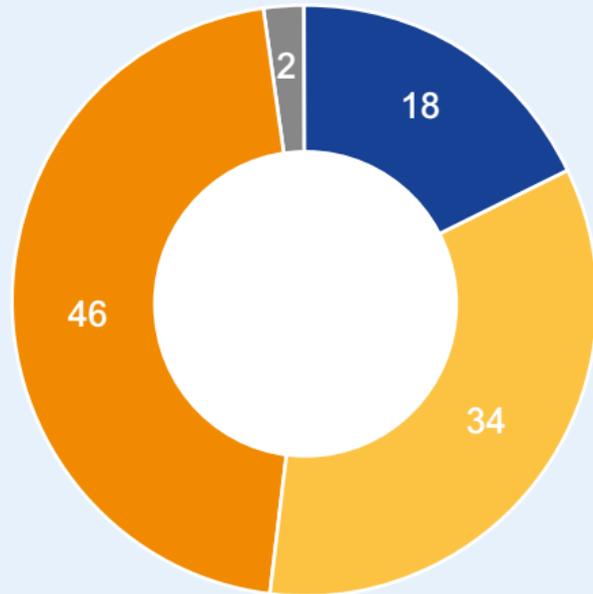
(±0)

Basis: 1,023; figures given as percentages (compared to 2016: percentage points)



Are the quality and safety of our foods
increasing, decreasing or staying the same?

Changes in the Quality and Safety of Foods

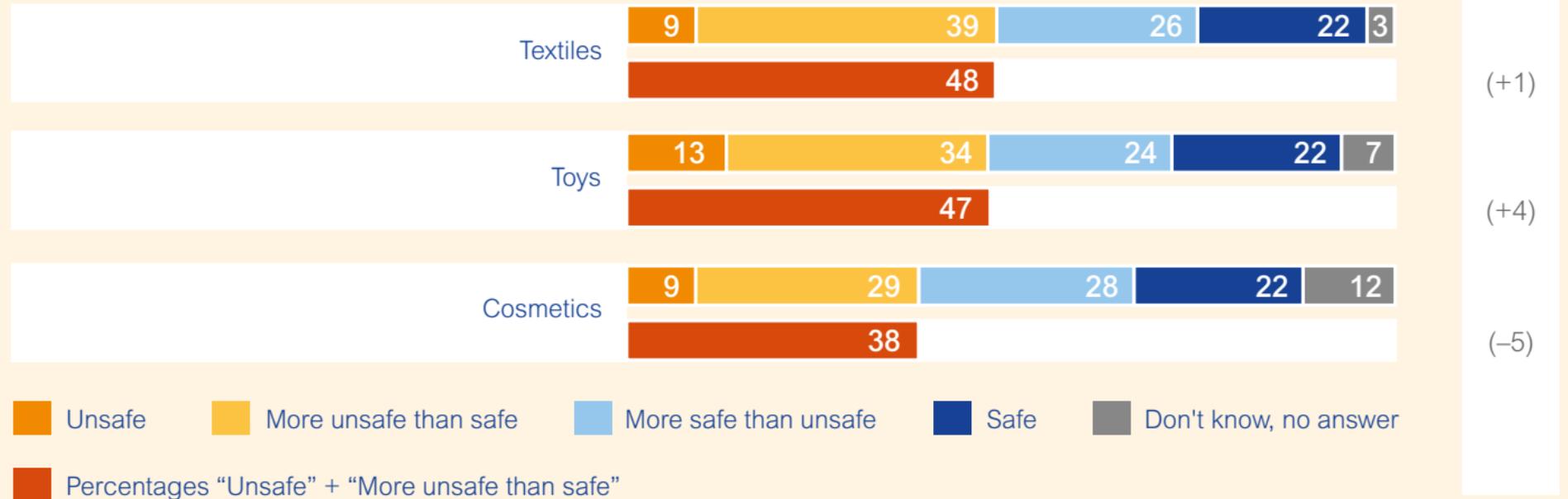


Basis: 1,023; figures given as percentages



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

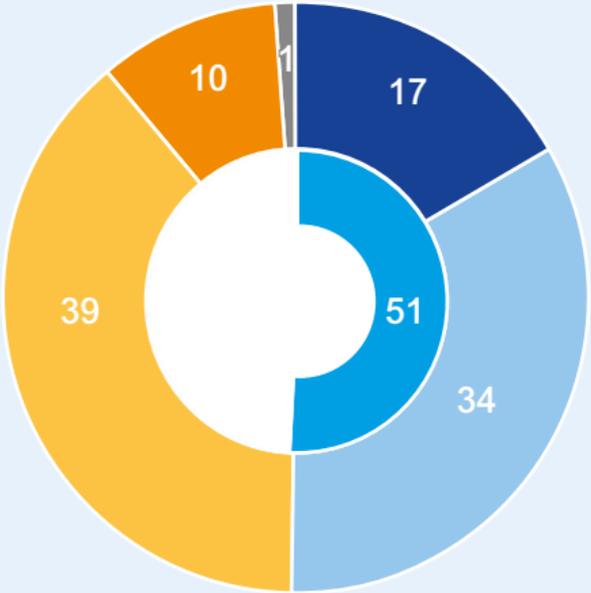


Basis: 1,023; figures given as percentages (compared to 2016: percentage points)



To what extent do you trust that state authorities
in Germany protect the health of consumers?

Trust in state authorities to protect health



	Compared to 2016
I trust them	(+2)
I tend to trust them	(-5)
I tend to distrust them	(+1)
I don't trust them	(+3)
Don't know, no answer	(±0)
Percentages "I trust them" + "I tend to trust them"	(-3)

Basis: 1,023; figures given as percentages (compared to 2016: percentage points)

How were the data collected?

Date of the survey: 31 January to 2 February 2017

Random sample: 1,023

Presentation of results: All figures in percent, rounding differences possible

Population: German-speaking population aged 14 years and over in private households in the Federal Republic of Germany

Sampling: 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)

Methode: Telephone interview (CATI omnibus survey, Dual Frame)

Conducted by: KANTAR EMNID

Previous study: BfR Consumer Monitor 02|2016

About the BfR

Do nanoparticles promote the occurrence of allergies? Does apple juice contain too much aluminium? The 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).

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

Residues of plant protection products in fruit and vegetables:

> FAQ > Residues of plant protection products in food

Antibiotic resistance:

> A-Z Index > Antibiotic resistance

Mineral oils in food:

> A-Z Index > Mineral oil

Genetically modified food

> FAQ > Food and feed derived from genetically modified organisms (GMO)

Microplastics in food:

> A-Z Index > Microplastic particles in food

Genome editing:

> FAQ > Genome Editing und CRISPR/Cas9

Pyrolizidine alkaloids in herbal teas and teas:

> A-Z Index > Pyrolizidine alkaloids

Glyphosate in food:

> FAQ > Glyphosate – Assessment of the health risk



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