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Education

Phase 4

Food production – farm to
fork





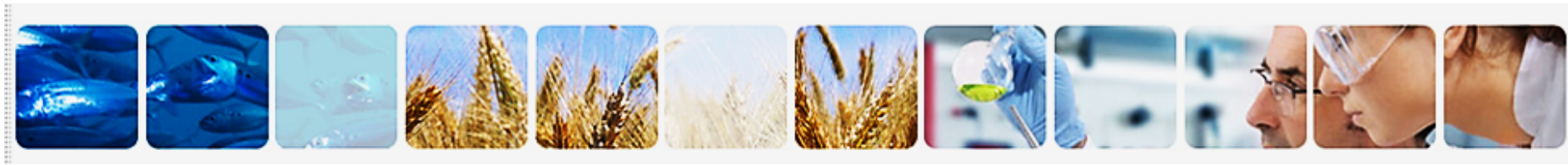
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Objectives

To gain an overview of food production, from farm to fork in the European Union.

To gain an overview of food production in the rest of the world.





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The food and drink industry is the largest manufacturing sector in the EU in terms of turnover, value added and employment.

It is the second leading manufacturing sector in terms of the number of companies in the EU.

Germany, France, Italy, United Kingdom (UK) and Spain are the largest EU food and drink producers.

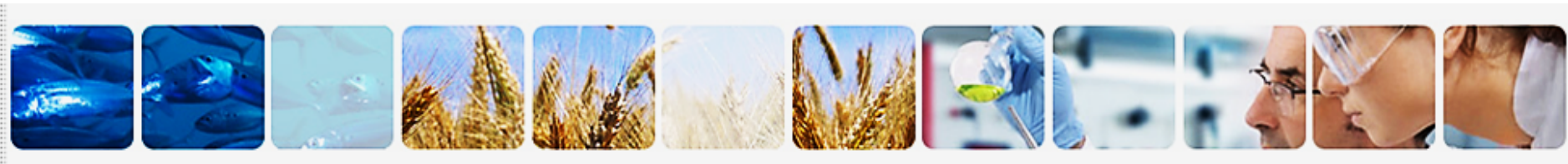




The food chain connects three important sectors:

- the agricultural sector;
- the food and drink industry;
- the distribution sector.





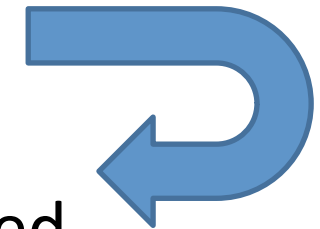
Farm to fork



The food chain usually starts within the agricultural sector, on a farm.



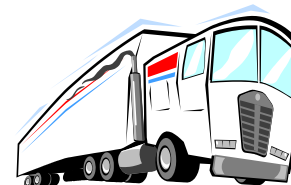
Most food is processed or transformed within the manufacturing sector.



Consumers purchase food and drink in retail and food service outlets.



It is then distributed through wholesale and transport systems.





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Food safety

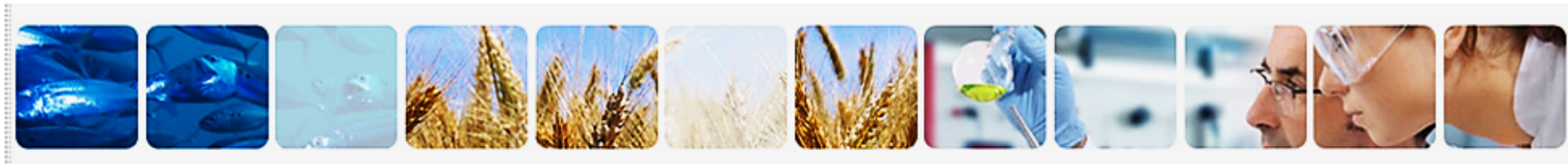
High importance is placed on the quality and safety of food from the EU and from other countries.

The EU's food safety strategy covers:

- the safety of food for human consumption;
- animal feed, animal health and welfare;
- plant health.

It is designed to ensure that food is traceable as it moves from the farm to the fork, even when crossing international borders. For further information, visit: www.efsa.europa.eu





The food and drink industry



The industry is one of the largest employers in Europe

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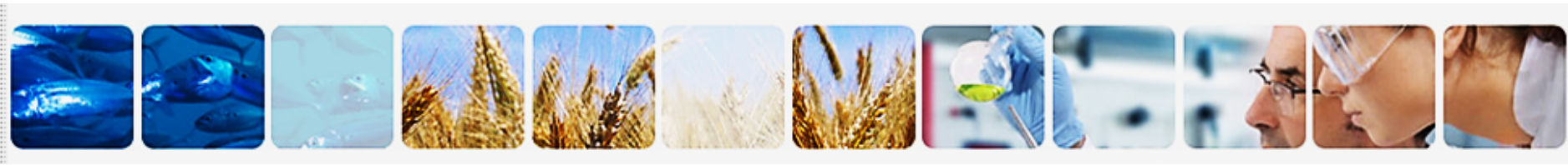
1 in 5 of the EU's total workforce.

The largest part of the EU's food chain is the food and beverages manufacturing sector.

There was a big increase in the number of supermarkets and superstores in the EU during the last 20 years.

This means that the largest employer (80%) is in non-specialised food retailing.





Along the food chain



Agriculture

Under the first Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) the focus was on increasing agricultural productivity. This was to help ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural workers, stabilise markets, and ensure security of food supply at affordable prices to consumers.

As this was achieved food surpluses built up and there were environmental concerns about the methods being used.





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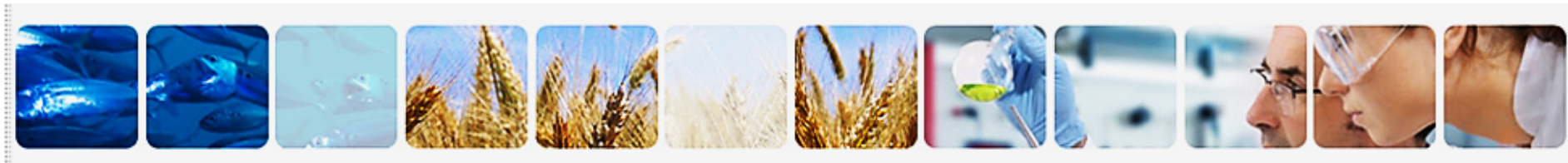
Agriculture

Changes were made to the CAP to try and make sure that food was produced to meet the needs of the market, therefore less was wasted.

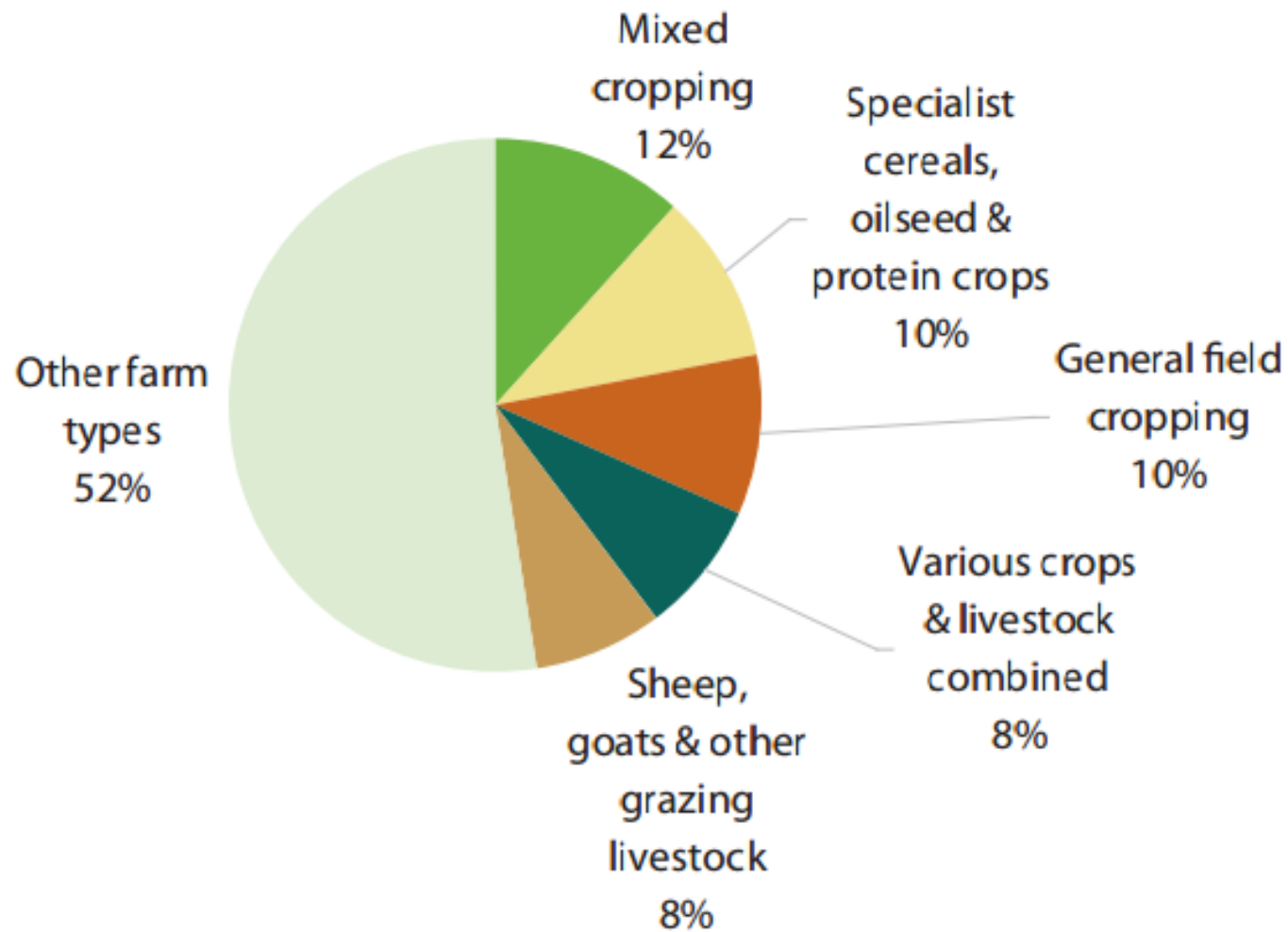
There was also a move to a more environmentally friendly and sustainable form of agriculture.

The CAP is continually being reformed. There have been many changes to the way funding is provided to try and make sure it is fair for all farmers and producers.





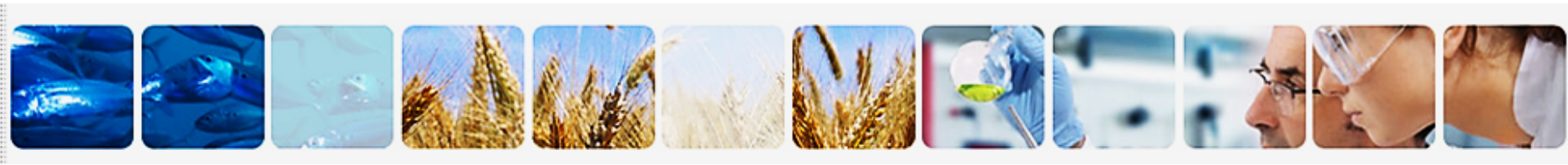
Types of farming in the EU



Source: Eurostat 2013

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Agricultural production



The main products in the EU food chain are split between crop products (e.g. cereals and vegetables), animals (e.g. cattle, sheep, pigs) and animal products (e.g. milk).

The production of agricultural and food products depends on:

- climate and geological conditions;
- the availability of land and water resources;
- the level of imports.

These factors help determine which type of farming is practised in each Member State.





Agricultural production

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Almost one quarter of the EU's production of cereals comes from France, followed by Germany and Poland.



Italy and Spain are the leading producers of fresh vegetables in the EU, with the Netherlands also specialising in producing fresh vegetables.

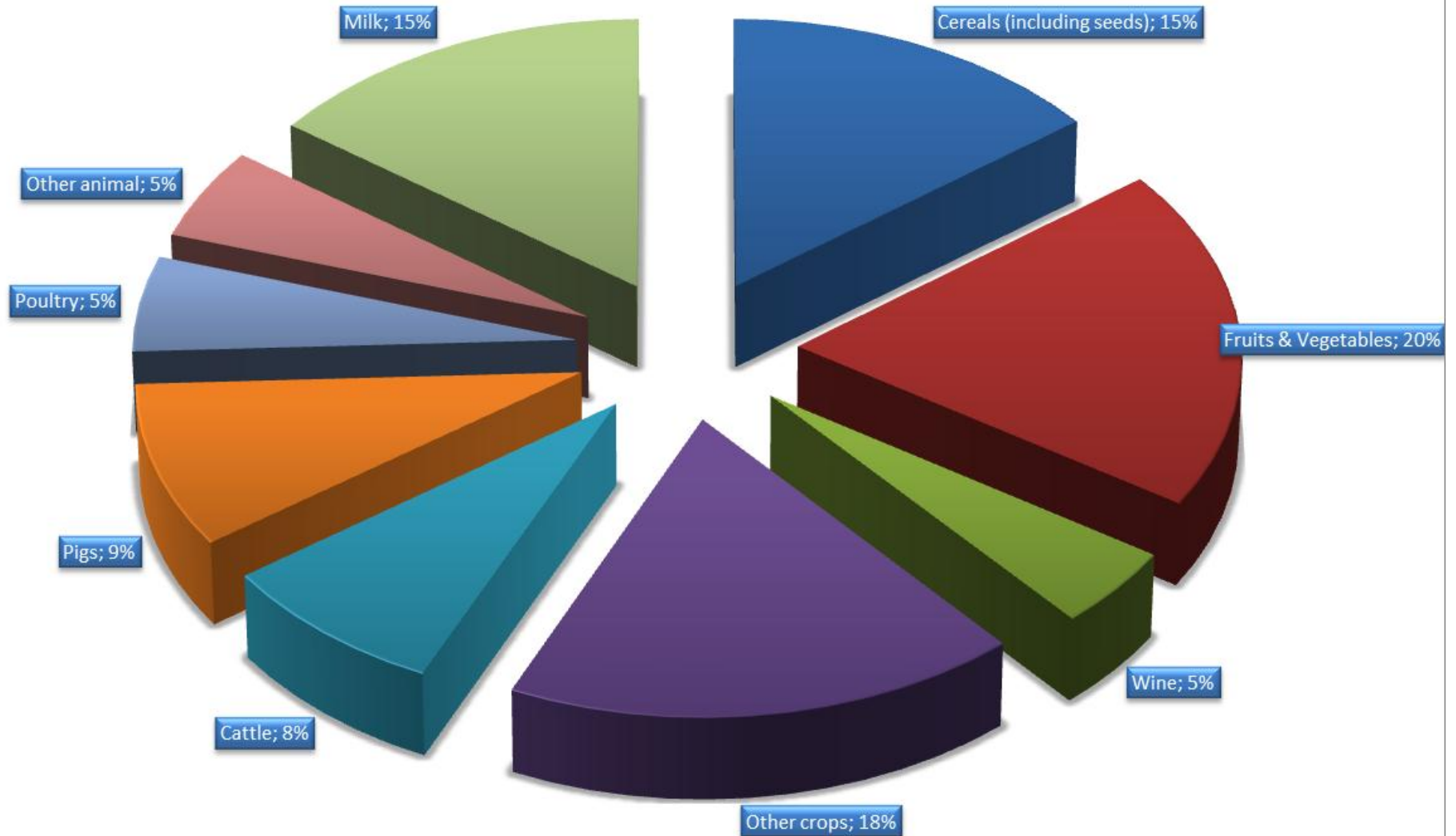


Over 70 % of the milk produced in the EU comes from Germany, France, the UK, Poland, the Netherlands and Italy.





Part of different Products in final Agricultural Production in 2011



Source: <http://ec.europa.eu>



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Meat

France and Germany are the largest producers of beef and veal.

Germany and Spain are the biggest producers of pork.

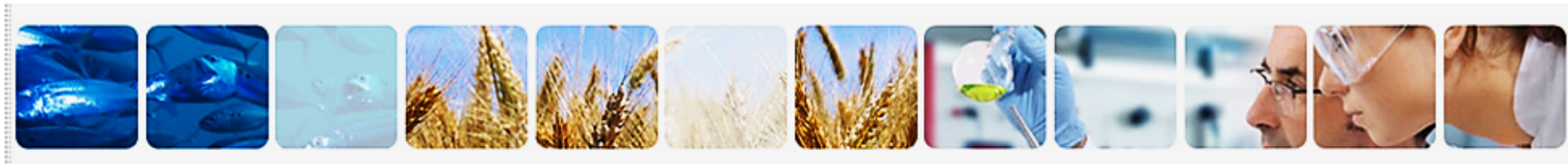
The UK and Spain are the biggest producers of lamb/sheep meat.

Poultry production is widespread across most of the Member States.



Source :<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu> (2009)





Milk quota

The quantity of milk produced in the EU is controlled by a system of production quotas. A milk quota is the maximum quantity of milk which a farmer may sell in a year free of a levy (tax).

Milk quotas were introduced in the mid 1980s to help control rising milk production. Plans are to abolish the milk quota system in 2015.





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Most (90%) dairy farmers sell their milk to dairy processors and it then enters the food chain.

Other dairy farmers sell their milk directly to consumers and on a few dairy farms milk is consumed on the farm.





Cereals

The EU is one of the world's biggest cereals producers.

Wheat is the largest cereal crop in the EU. France is the largest producer followed by Germany and the UK.

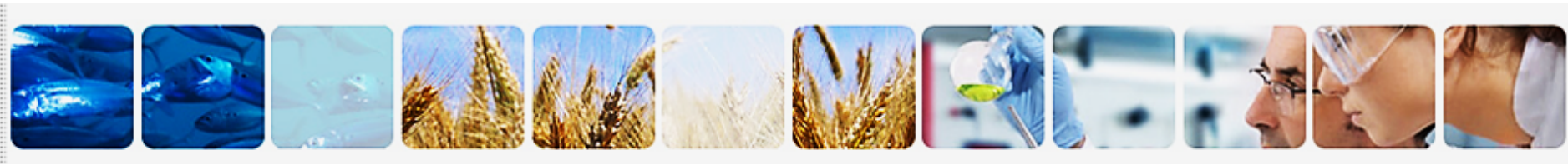
Other cereals produced in the EU are:

- barley;
- maize;
- small amounts of rye, oats and spelt.

Nearly two-thirds of the EU's cereals are used for animal feed, with around one-third for human consumption.

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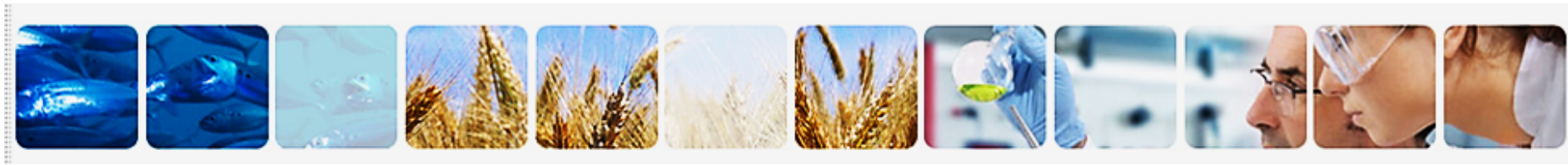
Fruit and vegetables



Fruit and vegetables are widely grown in the Mediterranean Member States.

Fruit and vegetables account for around one quarter of total agricultural output in Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Malta and Cyprus. It is also important in Belgium, the Netherlands, and in the UK.





Potatoes



The EU is one of the largest producers of potatoes in the World. They are grown in all the EU Member States.

Early (new) and main crop potatoes are grown for the consumer and as raw material for processing.

The food industry use potatoes for different types of products:

- pre-cooked products, mostly French fries;
- dehydrated products, e.g. potato flours, flakes;
- snacks;
- other products, e.g. gnocchi, salads, ready prepared meals.



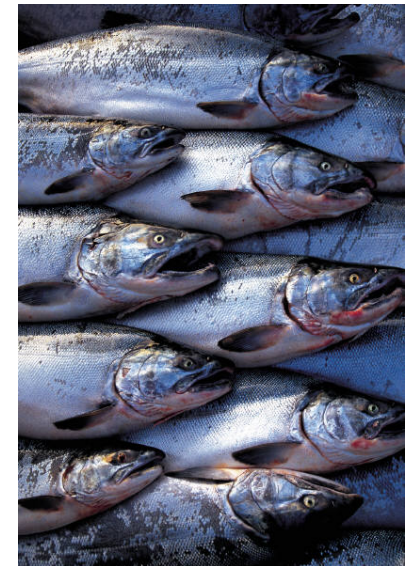


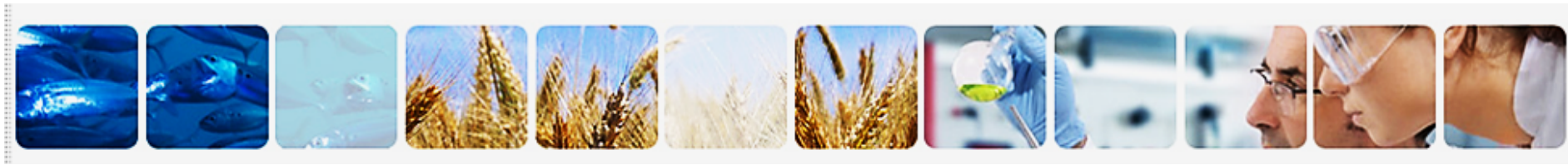
Fish and shellfish

Total catches by the fishing fleets of Spain, Italy, the UK and France accounted for just over half of all the catches made by EU fishing fleets in 2010.

The main type of fish landed varies a lot, this reflects what is available and in part what the consumer wants to buy.

Fish farming (aquaculture) produces mainly mussels, trout, salmon and oysters.





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Manufacturing and processing

The food industry sector is one of the largest and most important manufacturing sectors in Europe.

It produces a large selection of foods; from staple products (e.g. flour, milk, salt,) to luxury, sometimes high value items (e.g. caviar, chocolates, sparkling and still wines).



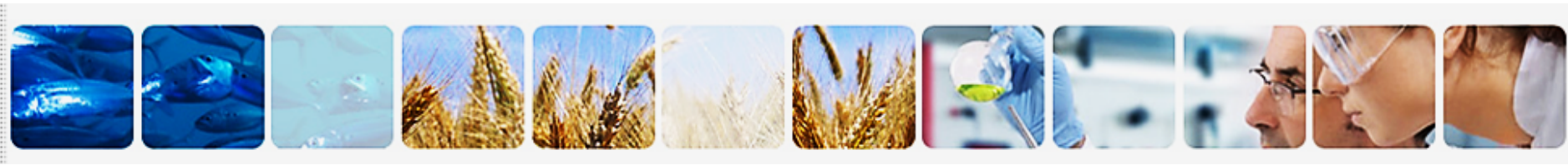


Manufacturing and processing

The four largest food and beverage manufacturing sectors in the EU are the manufacture of:

- bakery and flour-based products;
- meat and meat products;
- other products e.g. the manufacture of sugar-based products, tea and coffee, or pre-prepared meals;
- beverages.





International trading



Food and beverages are increasingly traded internationally.

The EU is self-sufficient in meat, dairy products, cereals and beverages. It imports a range of agricultural foods from other countries.

Farmers and food producers in other countries who wish to export their goods to the EU have to respect the food safety principles that apply for EU farmers and producers.

Checks are made on imports at European borders as food enters the EU.





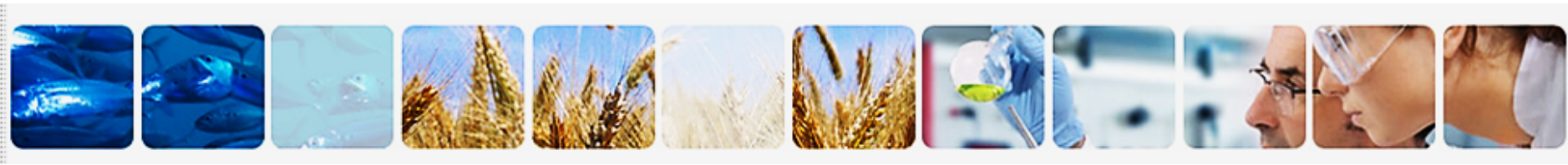
Main food imports to the EU are:



Cereals	Canada, USA, Brazil, Argentina
Meat and products	Brazil, New Zealand, Australia
Fish/shellfish	Norway, China, Vietnam
Dairy products	Switzerland, New Zealand, USA
Fresh/chilled/frozen vegetables	China, Egypt, Morocco
Fresh/dried fruit, nuts	Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia
Sugar/honey	Brazil, Mauritius, Swaziland
Tea/coffee/cocoa	Brazil, Ghana, Vietnam

Where do they come from?





Retail and consumer services



One of the last steps in the food chain from farm to fork, takes place when food and drinks are sold to consumers in order to prepare meals at home.

Meals and drinks may also be provided outside of the home. This has increased greatly in many parts of the world, including much of the EU.





Retail and consumer services

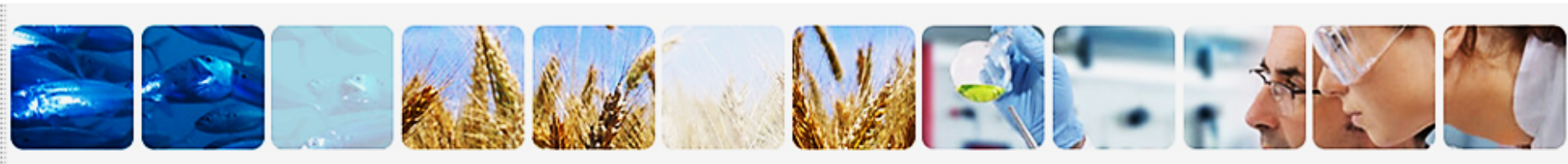


One of the big changes in food and beverage retailing and consumer services is convenience.

Traditionally, customers shopped on a daily basis in local, specialised food and beverage shops.

Over the years this has changed to a 'one-stop' shop, often out-of-town, offering thousands of products, year-round, under the same roof with easily accessible free parking.





Retail and consumer services



This is variable between northern Member States and those from southern or eastern Europe where independent grocery and specialist shops are still more common.





The consumer

Consumers are faced by a range of issues when buying food, for example:

- price;
- quantity;
- quality;
- diet and health issues;
- marketing e.g. product brands, campaigns.

The EU aims to help the consumer by ensuring food is safe to eat and is clearly labelled.



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