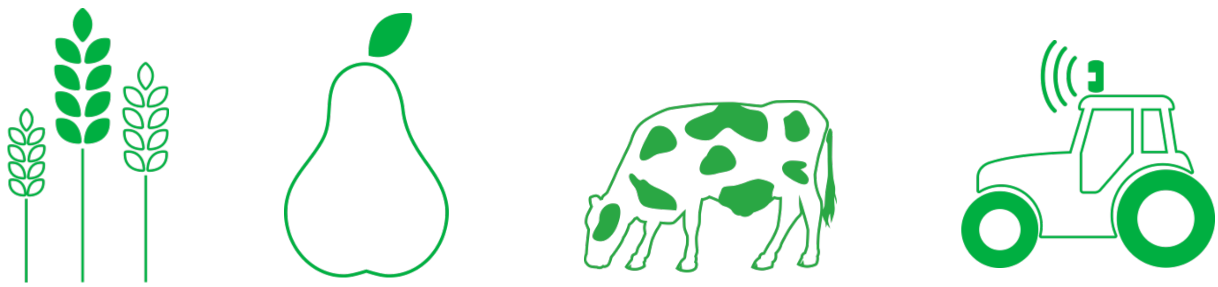
Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

British food and farming at a glance

21 March 2016



What we grow

Agriculture is fundamental to the landscape of the UK:

71% of land in the UK is used for farming (17.2 million ha)

19% of land is used for arable crops eg: wheat and barley

400,000 the number of people employed in farming

1% for horticultural crops eg: fruit and vegetables

£10.7 billion the contribution from **agriculture and fishing** to the economy (2014)

A diverse and global supply of food is essential for the resilience of our food supply: achieving 100% self-sufficiency in indigenous products would not insulate us from shocks to the system – for example, weather and disease can affect the harvest and yields. The UK is 76% self-sufficient ('production to supply ratio') in home grown food, and we rely on imports for the things which cannot be grown in the UK due to our climate.

76% how self-sufficient the UK is at producing home grown food

The value of UK agricultural production (at market prices) was £25.8 billion in 2014 (Figure 1). In volume terms, for example, this amounted to 970 million dozen eggs laid by 37.1 million birds and 14.6 million litres of milk from 1.8 million cows.

What we produced in 2014 (at market prices):

Crops

Cereals	**£3.5 billion**
Vegetables	**£1.2 billion**
Potatoes	**£0.7 billion**
Oilseed rape	**£0.7 billion**
Fruit	**£0.6 billion**

Meat

Beef & veal	**£2.6 billion**
Poultry	**£2.3 billion**
Pork	**£1.3 billion**
Mutton & lamb	**£1.1 billion**

Dairy

Milk	**£4.6 billion**
Eggs	**£0.7 billion**

Figure 1: UK Agricultural production 2014

What we sell

£26.9 billion
the contribution from food and drink manufacturing to the economy (2014)

£198 billion
spent by consumers in the UK on all food, drink and catering (2014)

3.8 million
people across the UK employed in the food and drink sector

Food and drink manufacturing contributed £26.9 billion to the economy in 2014, and consumers in the UK spent £198 billion on all food, drink and catering in 2014. The food and drink sector (beyond agriculture) employs around 3.4 million people across the whole of the UK (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Regional employment in food and drink, Great Britain 2014

Exports

In addition, the UK exported £18 billion worth of food and drink in 2015. UK food is a global business, with exports to over 200 overseas countries and territories. Our biggest export markets are Ireland, France, the USA, Netherlands and Germany (Figure 3). Of the UK's top 20 export markets for food and drink products, £9.37 billion goes to EU countries and £4.33bn goes to non-EU countries.

£18 billion
the value of food and drink exported by the UK (2015)

Our top products for export are whisky, worth £4 billion per year; salmon, cheese, wine and lamb. Most of our exports are ‘highly processed’ products: added value products rather than raw commodities. Our exports are also diverse, from milk powder, truffles, oysters, natural honey, beer, gin, cider, flavourings and specialist ingredients.

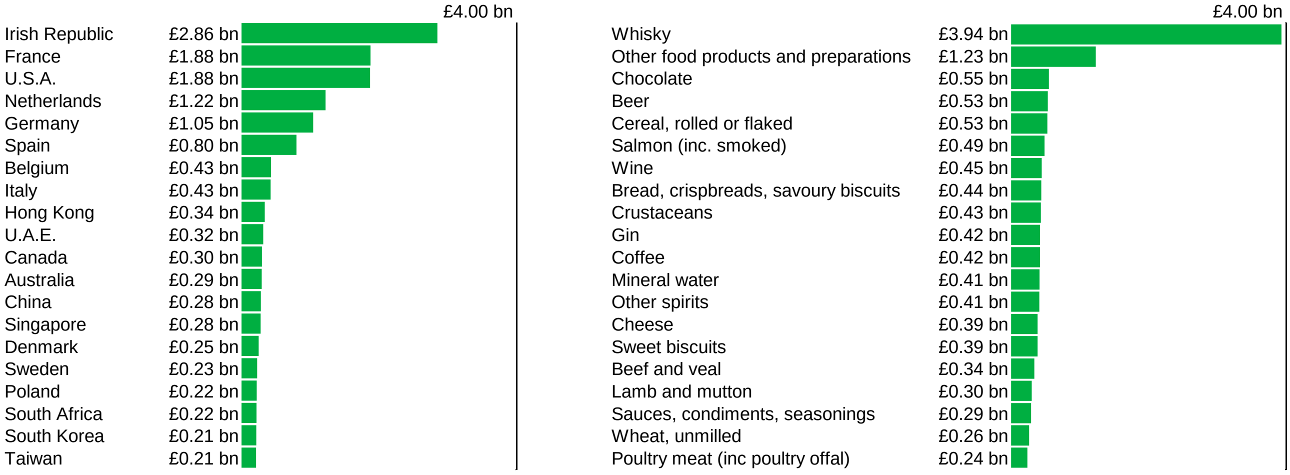


Figure 3: UK Exports 2015: Top 20 markets and food and drink products

Protected food and drink names

We have 73 protected regional and traditional British foods and drinks in the UK, representing all regions of the country for example: Cornish pasties, Kentish ale, Jersey Royal potatoes, Welsh lamb, Melton Mowbray pork pies, Stilton cheese, Cumberland sausage, Yorkshire forced rhubarb, Armagh Bramley apples, Scottish wild salmon, Shetland lamb, English wine and Scotch whisky.

73

the number of protected regional and traditional British foods and drinks (UK)

Innovation

Our food industry is highly innovative. Figures from Mintel’s New Products Database showed that in 2014, there were 9,635 new product launches in the food and drink sector (Figure 4). In 2015 there were 12,522.

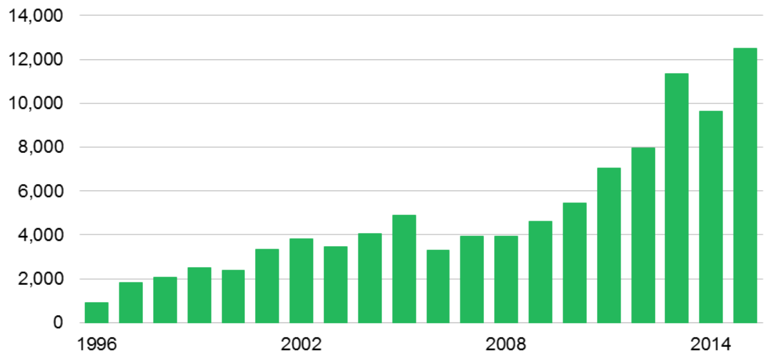


Figure 4: Number of new food and drink product launches in the UK, 1996-2015

What we consume

£112 billion

spent by UK households on food and drink in 2014
(11.1% of their income)

Household expenditure on selected food and drink items, 2014

		Average spend per person per week
Bread and cereals	£13.4 billion	£6.14
Meat	£18.7 billion	£6.23
Fish	£3.4 billion	£1.29
Milk, cheese and eggs	£11.4 billion	£2.93
Fruit	£7.2 billion	£2.32
Vegetables	£12.5 billion	£2.37

Attitudes towards British food

There is a large body of research which shows that price is the single biggest factor in consumers' purchasing decisions, most recently identified by the Global Food Security Food Programme's Public Panel. However, there are many other factors which come into shoppers' thinking, such as the provenance and origin of food, animal welfare standards, ethical and sustainable production and the visual attractiveness of products.

Mintel's latest 2016 survey on attitudes to British food found that 55% of shoppers say they try to buy British food whenever they can, and 77% agree that it is important to support British farmers. However, 45% think that British food is more expensive than imported food, and just over one third are prepared to pay more for British food. According to the survey 39% think that British food tastes better.

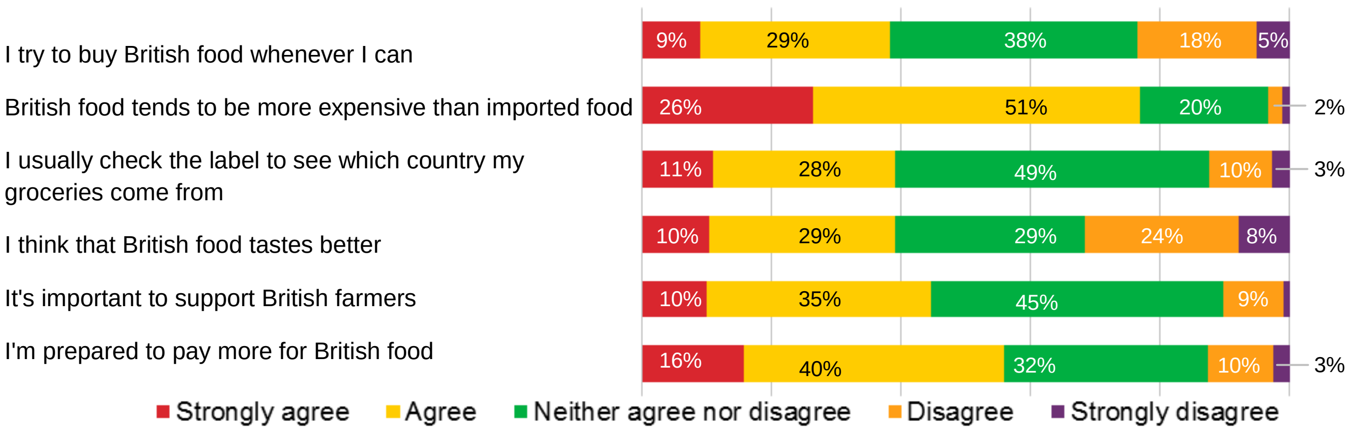


Figure 6: Attitudes towards British food, February 2016

Food and farming statistics summary

£108 billion

the amount food and farming was worth to the economy (2014)

1 in 8

of the national workforce is employed in food and farming

The Food and Farming sector in the UK includes agriculture, food and drink manufacturing, wholesaling, retail and catering. Food and drink manufacturing adds £26.9bn to the economy (Gross Value Added (GVA)), larger than car and aerospace manufacturing combined.

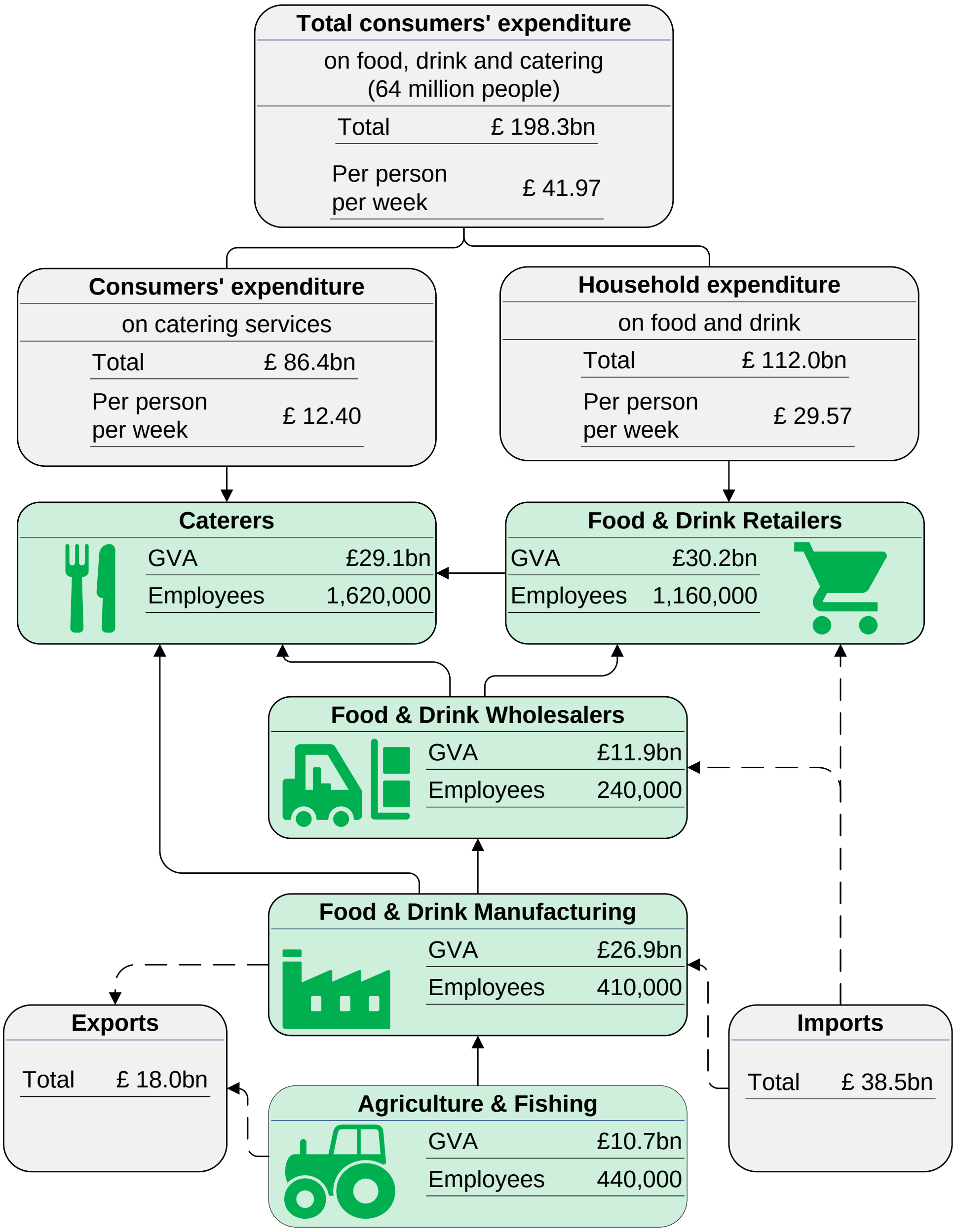


Figure 7: The UK food chain in numbers (GVA is Gross Value Added, or the value added to the UK economy)

Notes/Sources

Sources

- Figure 1: Defra, Agriculture in the UK 2014
- Figure 2: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey
- Figure 3: HMRC
- Figure 4: Mintel: GNPD database
- Figure 5: ONS: Consumer Trends, Defra Family Food
- Figure 6: Lightspeed GMI/Mintel on behalf of Defra, Attitudes to British food, February 2016
- Figure 7: ONS: Consumer Trends (expenditure data), Annual Business Survey (GVA), Labour Market Trends (employment); HMRC: (overseas trade)

Further information

More statistical information about all aspects of agriculture and food and drink in the UK is available on the Defra website. Two publications in particular provide a more detailed overview: Agriculture in the UK, and the Food Statistics Pocketbook.

Notes

1. All data quoted (except Figures 4 and 6) are sourced from Official or National Statistics sources. These statistics are produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which sets out eight principles including meeting user needs, impartiality and objectivity, integrity, sound methods and assured quality, frankness and accessibility.

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