

PRESENTATION

Belgian Sustainable Food Systems



Belgian
Foreign Trade Agency

Lorenzo Van Elsen – Project Manager and Editor – 22/06/2021

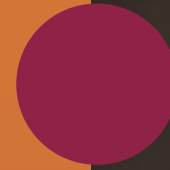


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1. The State of Play of the Belgian Food Industry

1) Turnover:

Food industry sales increased by +5.9% in 2019.

The food industry can claim to be Belgium's largest industrial sector (with a 19.5% of overall turnover).

2) Investments:

In 2019, the food industry invested a total of €1.79 billion

The food industry was by far the biggest industrial investor in 2019

3) Foreign Trade:

In 2019, food and drink exports amounted to €27 billion, while imports amounted to €22 billion.

Belgian food industry exports are mainly concentrated within the European Union but long-distance exports have been growing.

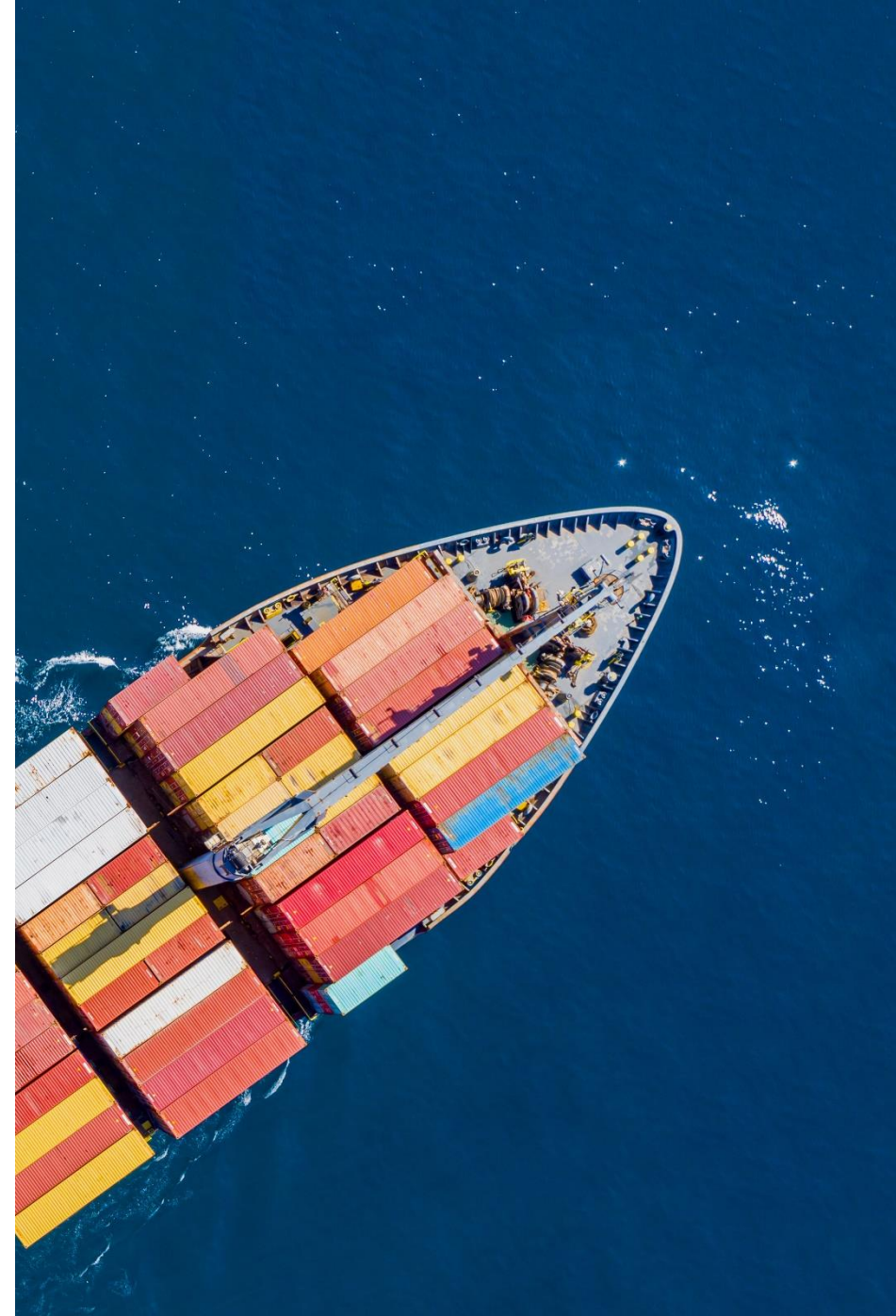
2. The Impact of COVID-19 and Brexit on the Food Sector

- 1) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the decline in sales has resulted in a loss of revenue of around €4 billion in the food industry on an annual basis, representing a decline in economic activity of around 7%.
- 2) Since Brexit came into force, Belgian food businesses, for whom the UK is the fourth largest trading partner, have been severely impacted and witnessed a fall in their UK exports linked to administrative difficulties or customs-related issues.



3. Exports as a Driver Towards the Belgian Food Industry's Recovery

- Boost international trade as a driver of both domestic and global food industry recovery.
- the international market has shown the greatest growth potential with an average increase of 5% exports per year.
- "Food 2025" export strategy elaborated by Fevia.



4. Sustainable Innovation as an International Trademark

"A sustainable food system (SFS) is 'a food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.'" — Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Belgian food businesses will have to invest in innovation, sustainability, new technologies and logistical solutions.

Developing sustainability as an international brand will strengthen our businesses' reputations, enabling them to consolidate their existing markets or find new ones, thereby giving them a competitive advantage.

By stimulating a sustainable food system our businesses will be able to distinguish themselves internationally from an environmental, social and economic standpoint, enabling Belgium to fully comply with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy.



5. The Belgian Food Industry: Already a Model Student in Sustainability

- Fight against food loss and waste
- Waste Package Recycling
- Efficient Water and Energy Usage

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