

SGS DIGICOMPLY

# FOOD FRAUD WATCH REPORT Q2 2021

SGS

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## ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Food Fraud Watch quarterly report is a summary of documented incidents in SGS Digicomply, relevant to food fraud and adulteration. Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive overview of the current records, helping food operators and other professionals in the related sectors to identify trends, emerging risks and food fraud vulnerabilities.

## DATA SOURCES

The data in this report has been extracted from millions of data points collected by the SGS Digicomply Food Safety Intelligence Platform and processed by SGS experts.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

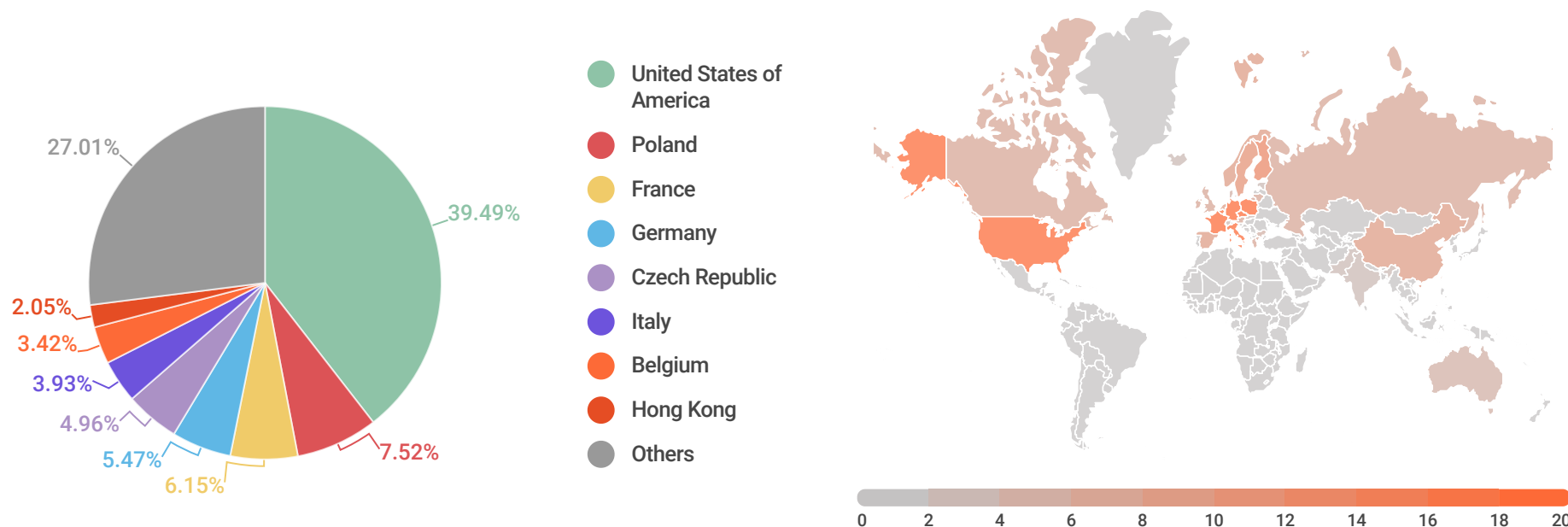


David Psomiadis (PhD) works as Chief Business Manager at Imprint Analytics GmbH, partner lab of SGS. Since 2013, he has settled in Neutal, Austria, as a member of the founding team of Imprint Analytics. He has published more than 70 contributions in scientific journals and conferences and he holds a regular member position in international committees and working groups (eg. AOAC, CEN) related to food authenticity testing.

In his role at Imprint Analytics, he leads the global Food Authenticity business strategy, brand development and collaborations within global networks and international consortia.

## GEO LOCATION OF FOOD INCIDENTS IN Q2

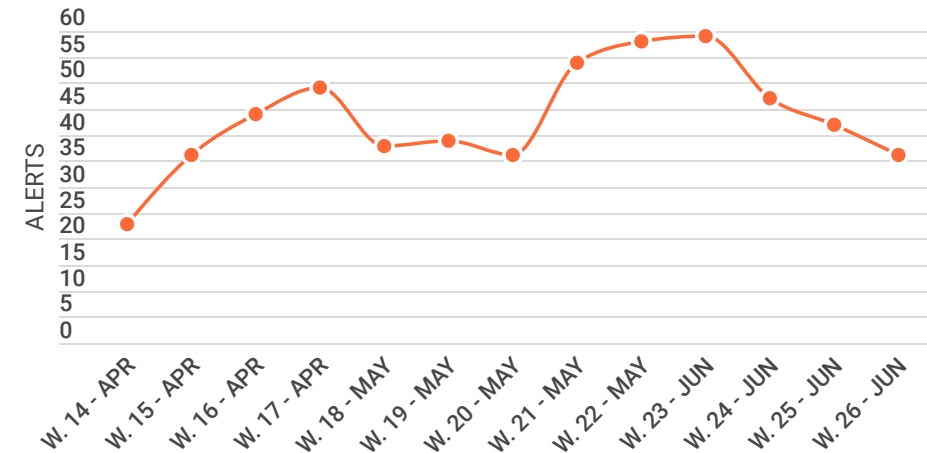
While the heat map of food fraud incidents persisted in highlighting North America, Europe and Southeast Asia, during the second quarter of 2021 the balance leaned towards the three countries consisting North America, ie. USA, Mexico and Canada. Large share of the North American incidents involved cases about meat and fish. The incidents had also increased density among the countries of EU, where some of the cases elevated to global scale of impact (such as Spanish saffron and Italian tomato pulp). Meat and meat products cases drove Poland to a sudden increase of fraud incidents, taking the lead in EU, while Germany, Italy and France followed. While China and India faced by far the most incidents in Asia, the case of the adulterated alcohol in Cambodia unveiled once again the severe impact of food fraud, as 20 people died.



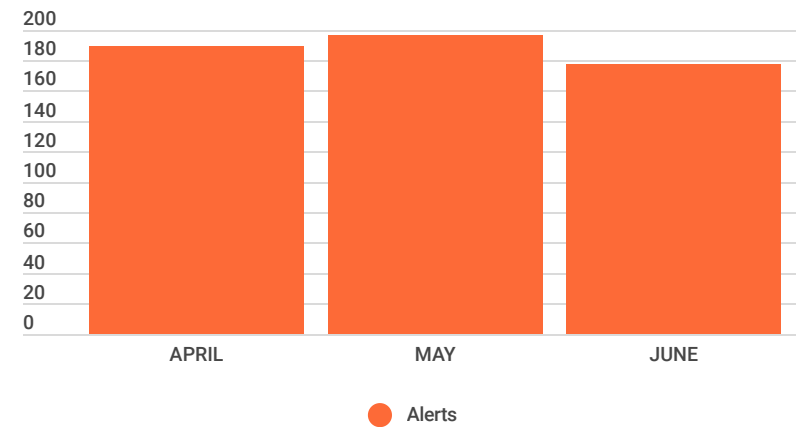
## RECORDS BY DATE

The monthly distribution during Q2 2021 was balanced, however the actual numbers of alerts presented a significant increase in comparison to Q1. This is partially expected during spring months in Northern Hemisphere, where the majority of the incidents has been documented, due to the intensification of more local agricultural and trade activity in fresh produce. At the same time, many countries have gone into a phase of ending the lockdown and opening the market activities including tourism and food service. The transition period offers opportunities for criminal activity such as food fraud.

Alerts by week

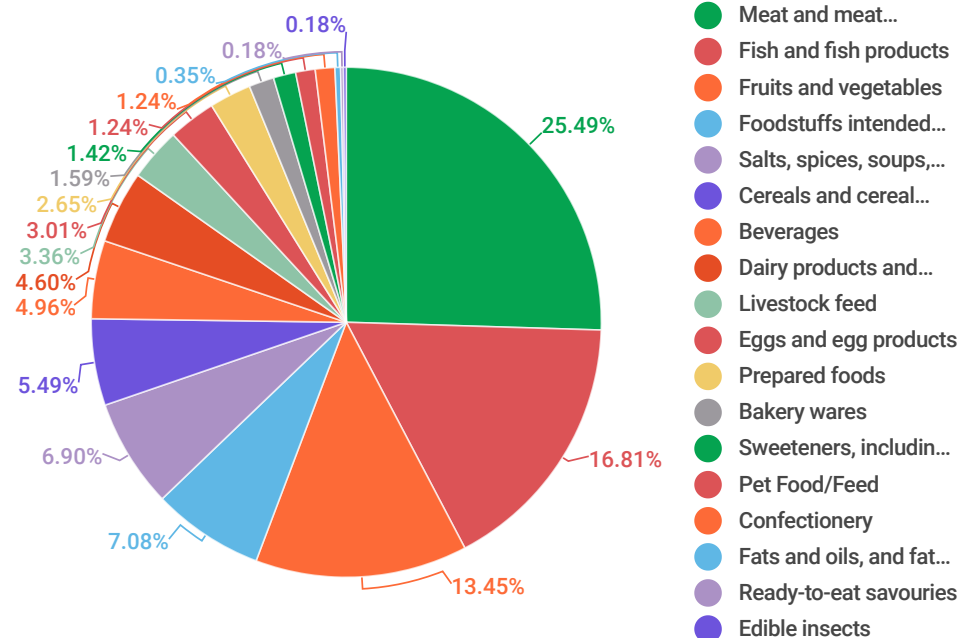
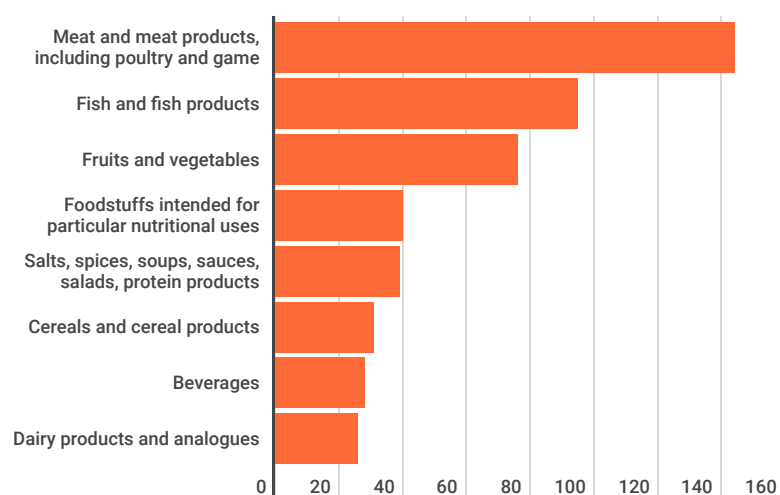


Alerts by month



## RECORDS BY PRODUCT CATEGORY

Meat, fish and fruits and vegetables have made more than half of the incidents among all food categories in the second quarter of 2021. Although the most alerts about meat and meat products originate from USA, the distribution is actually global with high numbers in Europe, Asia as well as Australia. The picture is different in fish and seafood, where North America and Southeast Asia suffered mostly. Adulteration of milk and milk products in India and Pakistan was repeated in Q2, showing persistence of this industry segment in the two South Asian countries. Fruits and vegetables included the infamous Italian tomato sauce case with origin mislabeling and the food fraud incidents in the spices category had as flagship the huge operation of saffron seizure in Spain, where a large network of criminals was dissolved.



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