

Issue | January 2026



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

In January 2026, the EU Rapid Alert System recorded 369 new notifications. The evaluation can be found under point 1 in this newsletter.

Under 'Latest news on residues and contaminants' (point 2), we report on changes to the maximum levels for pesticides, a proposal by the EU Commission to simplify the regulations for maximum residue levels of pesticides and their approval, and the national report 'Pesticides in food' by the German Federal Institute for Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL).

News around food safety and food fraud can be found under point 3.

Topic of the month (point 4) is the "One Health Zoonoses Report 2024" by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

EU-Project One Substance, One Assessment (OSOA)

Until now, chemicals within the EU have been assessed separately in different areas of law. In the past, this has sometimes led to multiple assessments of the same substance, a high administrative burden and limited data exchange between authorities. The EU regulations that came into force on January 1, 2026 as part of the EU project 'One Substance, One Assessment (OSOA)' are intended to make chemical assessment more transparent and efficient. Core element is the [Regulation \(EU\) 2025/2455](#) with the establishment of a common data platform. The platform is expected to be operational within three years and fully developed by 2036.

On 1 January 2026, [Regulation \(EU\) 2025/2457](#) and [Directive \(EU\) 2025/2456](#) also came into force to improve cooperation and reorganise scientific and technical tasks between EU agencies working in the

field of chemicals, including the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Further information on the project can be found at the Websites of [ECHA](#) and the [European Commission](#).

We hope that also this issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter is interesting for you and we are of course looking forward to your opinion.

Your Safefood-Online Team

1. RASFF Notifications January 2026

The number of new RASFF notifications in January 2026 is significantly lower than in December 2025:

- **January 2026:** 396
- December 2025: 521
- November: 530

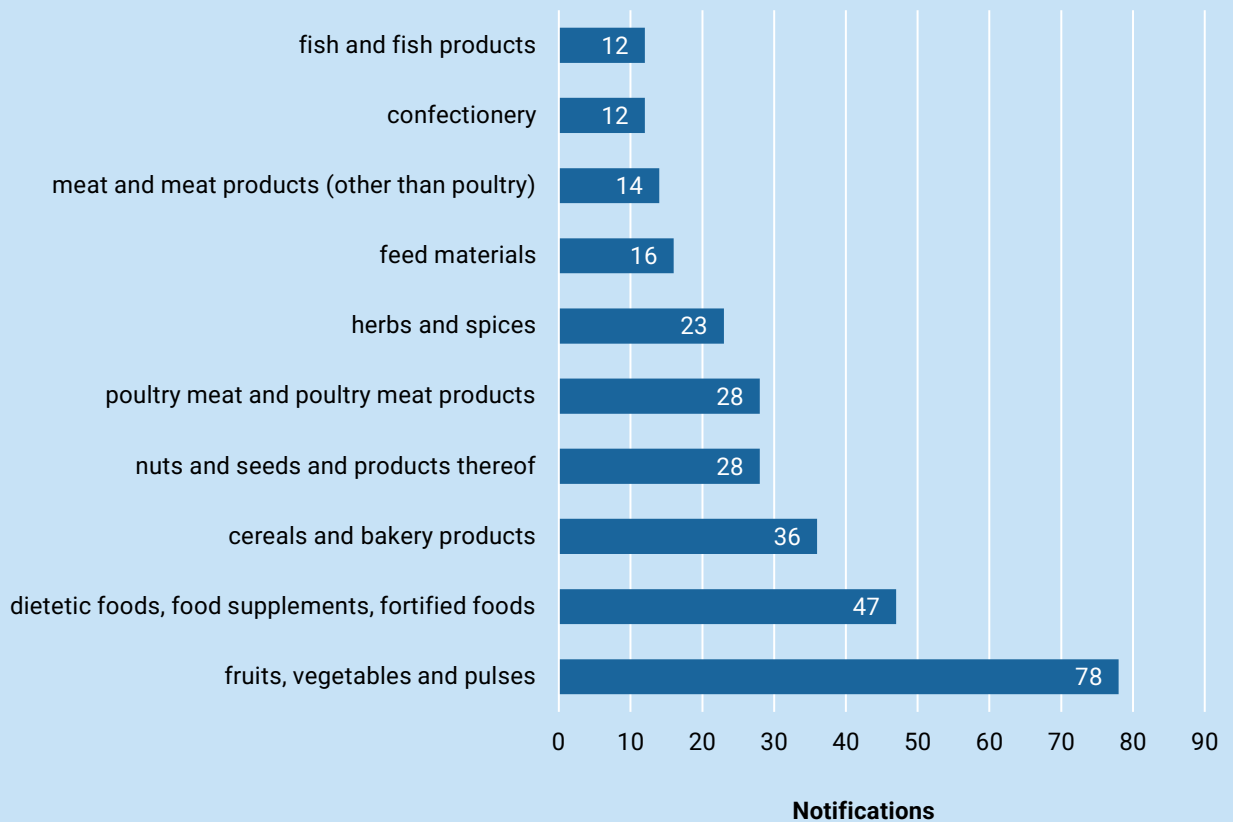
The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 101
- Border rejections: 126
- Information messages: 142



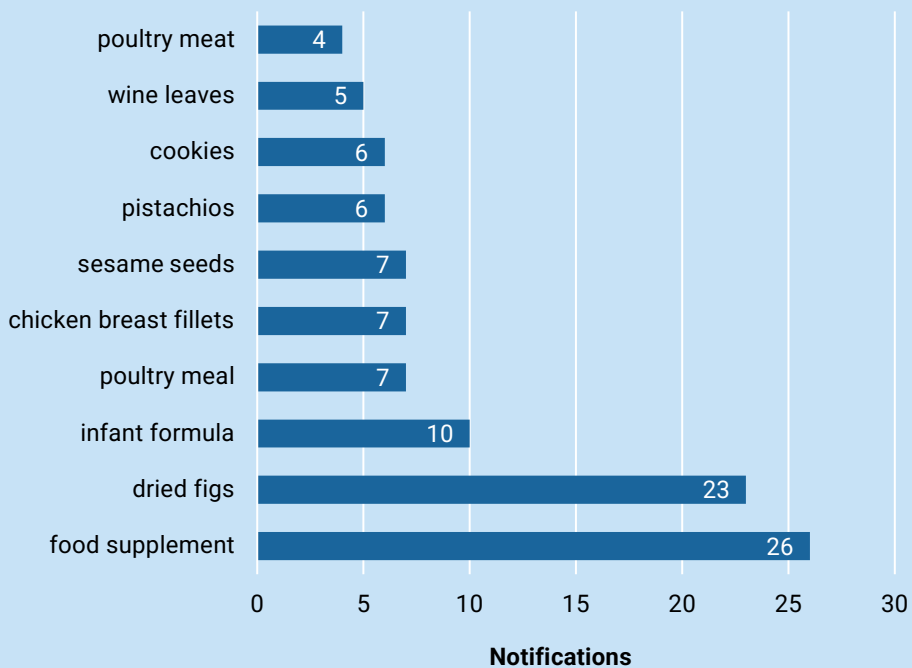
In January 2026, the product group fruit, vegetables and legumes ranks first with 78 notifications in the evaluation by product category, followed by the product categories dietary foods, food supplements and fortified foods in second and cereals and bakery products in third place with 47 and 36 notifications:

RASFF Notifications January 2026: Top 10 product groups



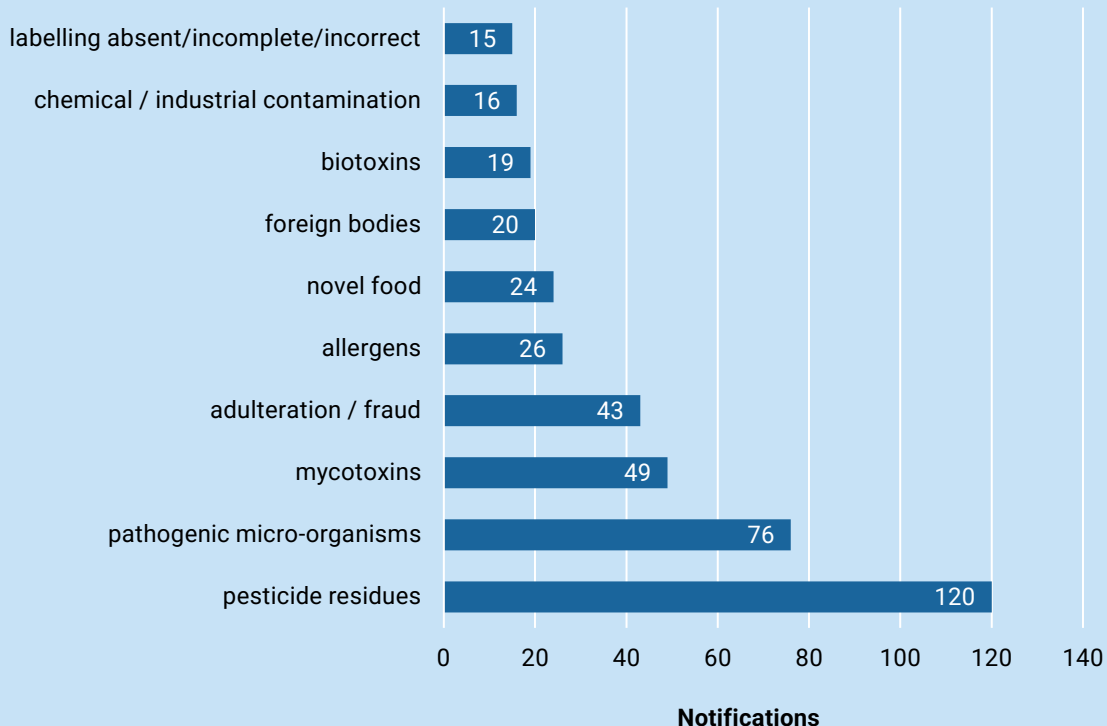
In the evaluation by product, food supplements are at the top with 26 notifications. Figs (dried) are following with 23 notifications. Infant formula are in third place with 10 notifications. In all cases, cereulide is the cause for the notifications. Cereulide is a toxin produced by certain strains (emetogenic strains, i.e. strains that cause vomiting) of *Bacillus cereus* and not inactivated by heating. Further information on cereulide can be found on the [EFSA](#) website.

RASFF Notifications January 2026: Top 10 products



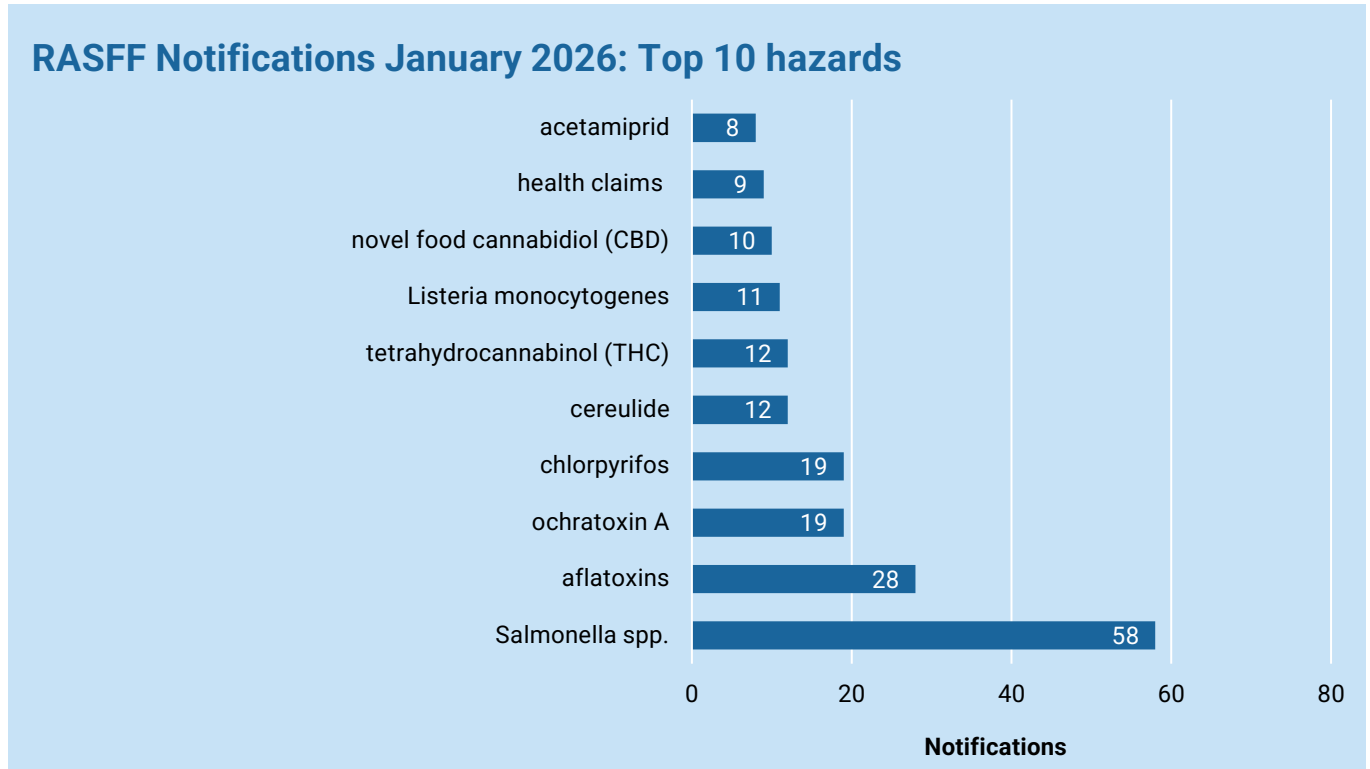
When evaluated by hazard category, pesticides are ranking first with 120 cases of maximum levels being exceeded or unauthorised pesticides being found. Pathogenic micro-organisms follow in second place with 76 notifications, and mycotoxins in third place with 49 notifications:

RASFF Notifications January 2026: Top 10 hazard categories

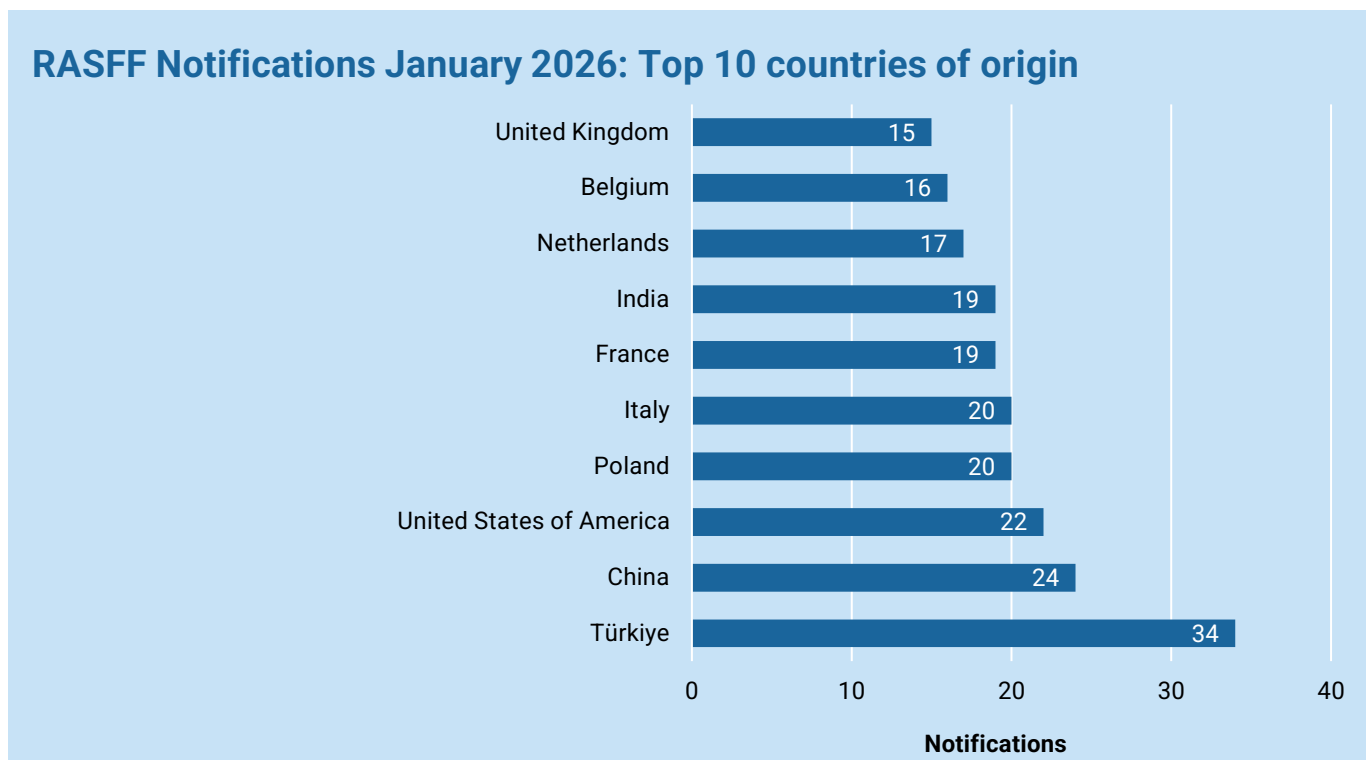


1. RASFF Notifications January 2026

In terms of hazards, salmonella are on top with 58 cases, followed by aflatoxins with 28 cases and ochratoxin A with 19 cases:



Finally, the evaluation according to the country of origin of the products:



In 34 notifications, the products came from Türkiye. China and the United States of America are following with 24 and 22 products.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



European Commission proposes changes to rules on setting maximum residue levels on imported products, and on approving new pesticides

The European Commission has submitted a **proposal** to simplify, among other things, the rules on setting maximum residue levels (MRLs) in products imported into the European Union (EU) from non-EU countries (Regulation (EC) No 396/2005) and on the authorisation of pesticides for use in the EU (Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009). For further information, please refer to the proposed regulation.

German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL): National Reporting on pesticide residues in food

The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) has published the **national report pesticide residues in food for 2024**. In total, around 16,500 samples were analysed. During the reporting period, the most frequently tested foods were strawberries, eggs and potatoes. Across all product categories, samples with non-quantifiable or quantifiable residues accounted for 50%. The highest proportion of samples with non-quantifiable residues was found in the product category of products of

animal origin – land animals, at 75.6%, while the lowest proportion was found in fruit, vegetables and other plant-based foods, at 42.0%. For details on the test results, please refer to the linked BVL report. The tables can be found [here](#).

Regulation (EU) 2026/140

Regulation (EU) 2026/140 amended Annexes II and III with regard to the maximum levels of:

- Acequinocyl
- Chloromequat
- Metalaxyl-M
- Pyraclostrobin
- Sulfoxaflor
- Trifloxystrobin

in or on certain foods. Details of the amendments can be found in the linked text of the Regulation.

Regulation (EU) 2026/147

Regulation (EU) 2026/147 amended Annexes II and V with regard to the maximum levels of:

- ♣ Benfluralin
- ♣ Benthiavalicarb
- ♣ Perflufen

In or on certain foods. Details of the amendments can be found in the linked text of the Regulation.



Food Safety

- 🕒 [US: Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025-2030](#)
- 🕒 [Greenpeace Check: How do German major retailers stand on genetic engineering?](#)
- 🕒 [ECDC: Legionnaires' disease Annual Epidemiological Report for 2022](#)
- 🕒 [Commercial release of tomato genetically modified for purple fruit colour](#)
- 🕒 [International Green Week: Will "GMO-free" soon only be available with "Ohne Gentechnik" and organic labels?](#)
- 🕒 [EFSA: Risks for human health related to the presence of plant lectins in food](#)
- 🕒 [EU Parliament's environmental committee backs trilogue deal on New Genomic Techniques](#)



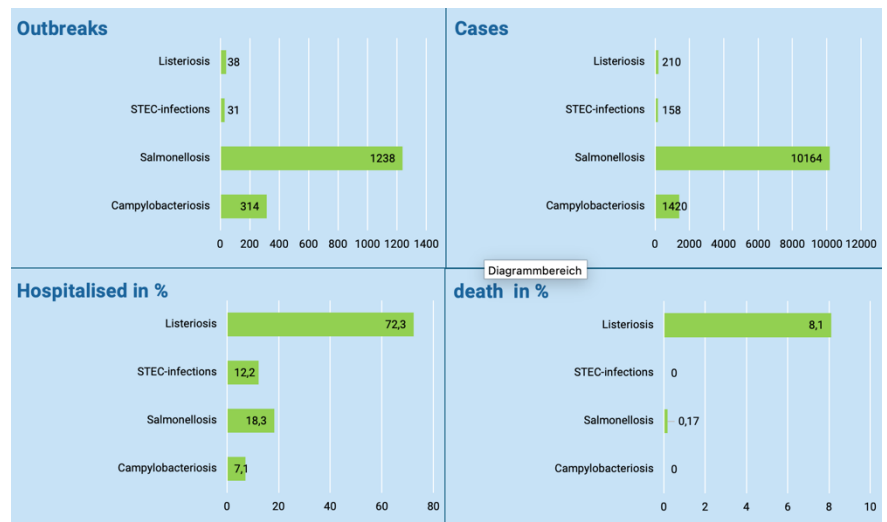
Food Fraud

- 🕒 [Fraunhofer-Institute: Rapid On-Site Detection of Food Fraud](#)
- 🕒 [Portugal: An ITQB NOVA study reveals new tools for distinguishing rice varieties and combating food fraud](#)
- 🕒 [Food fraud 2026 and beyond: new targets, tactics and risks](#)
- 🕒 [Norway: Four in court after Norwegian smoked salmon 'falsely labelled as Scottish'](#)
- 🕒 [DG Sante: DG Sante: An audit in Italy has revealed that germinated seeds are being produced by unregistered companies and that there is a lack of enforcement by the authorities.](#)
- 🕒 [EU auditors reveal gaps in olive oil checks](#)

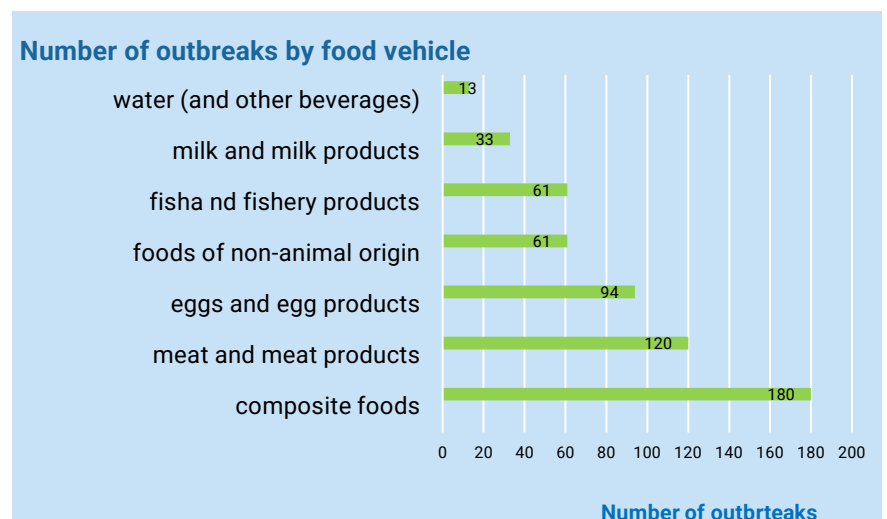
EFSA/ECDC: One Health Zoonoses Report 2024

The **One Health Zoonoses Report** by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) contains the results of monitoring and surveillance activities on zoonoses in 2024 carried out in 27 Member States (MS), the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) and eight non-Member States in accordance with the Zoonoses Directive 2003/99/EC.

In 2024, campylobacteriosis and salmonellosis were the most frequently reported zoonoses in humans, followed by infections with Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC). Listeriosis was the fourth most common disease, with the highest proportion of hospitalisations and the highest case fatality rate:



The number of cases reported over the last five years shows a significant upward trend in diseases caused by *Campylobacter salmonella*, listeria and STEC. The following figure shows the frequency of outbreaks by food:

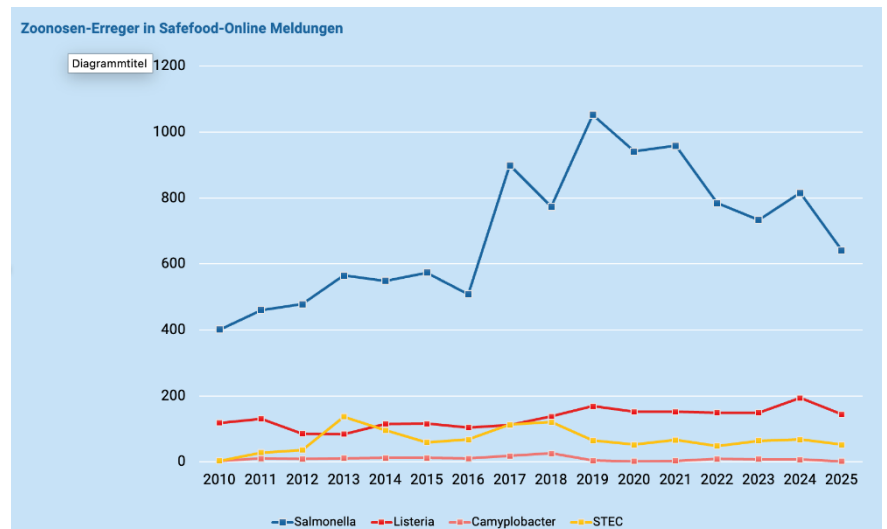


Feedback

Please forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:

info@safefood-online.de

Below is an overview of notifications in Safefood Online concerning salmonella, listeria, campylobacter and STEC. The total number of positive findings in the notifications is listed (in some cases, there are several zoonotic pathogens per notifications):





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