



1. Agri-food sector trade - Exports



Ireland is an open economy which exports the majority of its agricultural products. Irish exports of agri-food products accounted for 8.7% of total merchandising exports, with the value of agri-food exports for 2020 totalling €14.1 billion. This is down -3.3% in value and -1.2% in volume on 2019 figures, mainly due to a reduction in exports of forestry and beverages. Export values are driven by growth of Dairy up €21m (0.4%), Sheep meat up €36m (+11.5%), Animal Foodstuffs up €24m (+6.6%) and Animal oils and fats up €16m (+27.8%), and Fruit and Vegetables up €16m (+10.1%). On the other side values for Beverages were down €263m (-15.3%), Live animals down €114m (-25.0%), beef down €47m (-2.0%), Fish exports down €56m (-9.8%), Poultry down €36m (-2.3%), and Sugar, Sugar Preparation & Honey down €30m (-19.5%).

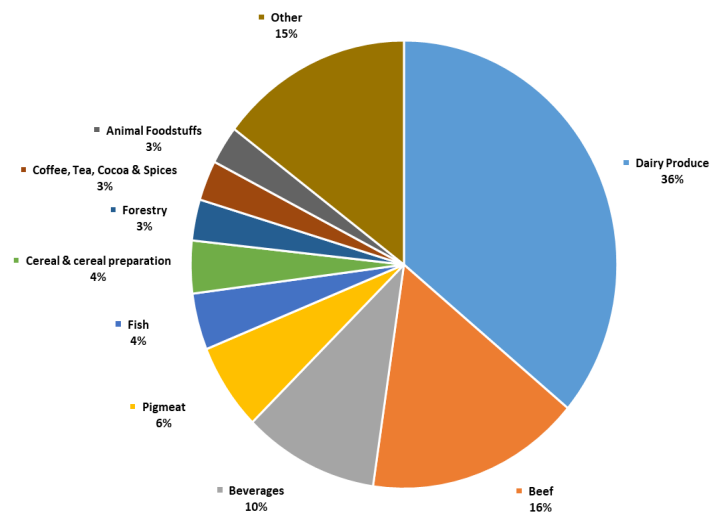
Agri-food sector exports by destination, 2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 % Total
UK	€5,004,127,333	€5,383,304,531	€5,578,288,616	€5,504,120,535	€5,227,866,251	37%
EU (excl. UK)	€3,744,392,440	€4,299,890,971	€4,445,157,851	€4,738,584,789	€4,544,910,203	32%
Rest of World	€3,724,723,619	€4,161,146,882	€3,641,423,118	€4,319,117,920	€4,326,411,984	31%
Total	€12,473,243,392	€13,844,342,384	€13,664,869,585	€14,561,823,244	€14,099,188,438	

Top 10 destinations for Agri-food sector exports, 2020

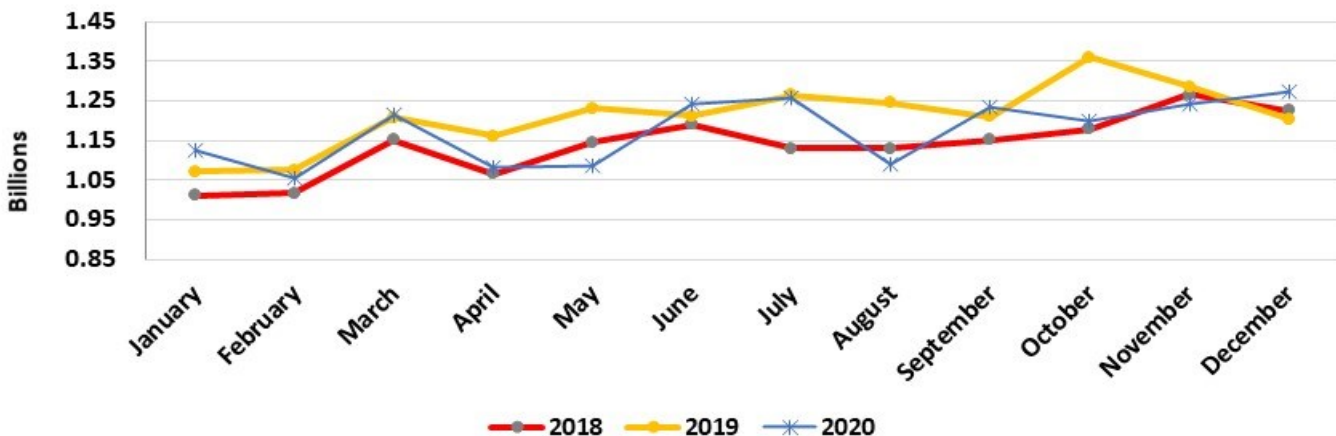
	2020		% Total Exports
	Value	Tonnes	
United Kingdom	5,227,866	4,292,406	37%
Netherlands	1,129,251	544,843	8%
United States	1,073,737	210,293	8%
China	872,461	298,901	6%
France	847,708	284,931	6%
Germany	823,400	226,160	6%
Italy	339,924	89,199	2%
Belgium	259,505	96,228	2%
Spain	246,530	61,020	2%
Poland	196,883	57,839	1%

Agri-food sector exports by type, 2020



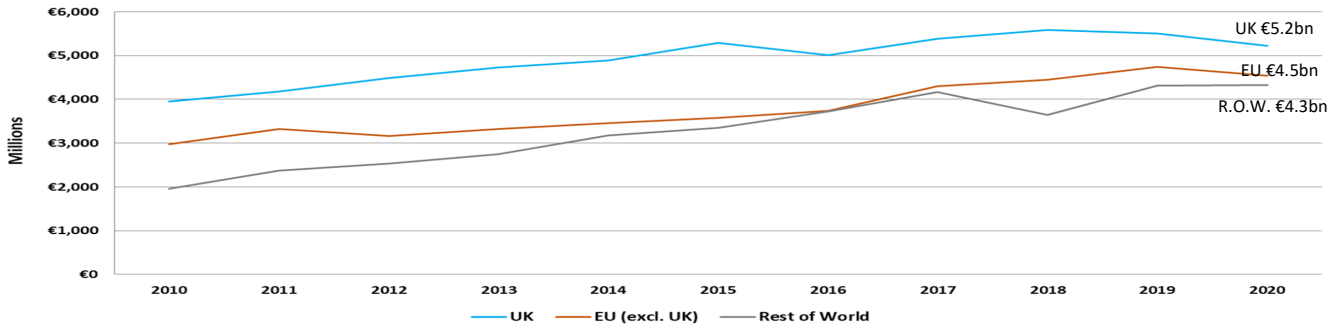
Other includes: Sheep meat; Poultry; Misc Edible Products & Preparations, etc. A full breakdown of Prepared Consumer Foods is available on page 4.

Value of Agri-food sector exports, 2018 – 2020





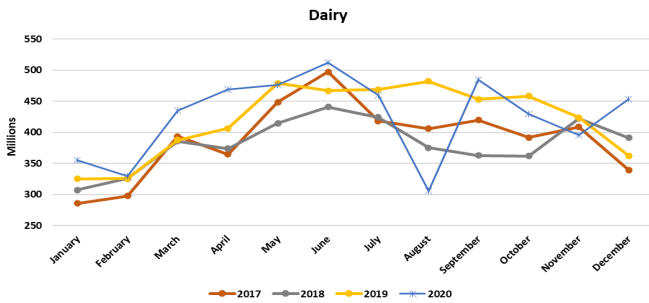
Value of Agri-food sector exports by destination, 2010 - 2020



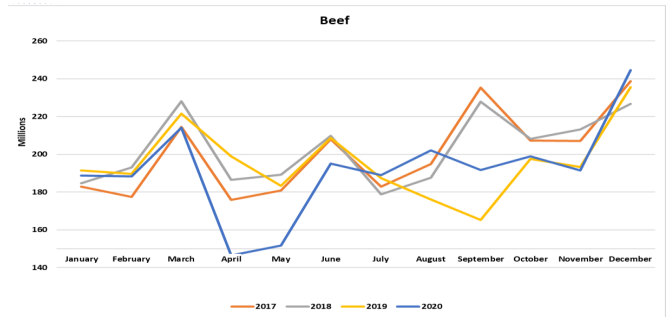
2. Detailed Monthly analysis agri-food exports by type



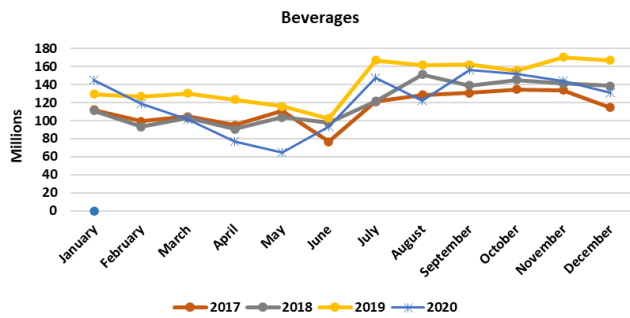
Dairy produce exports totalled over €5.1 billion in 2020, a 0.4% increase on 2019 figures.



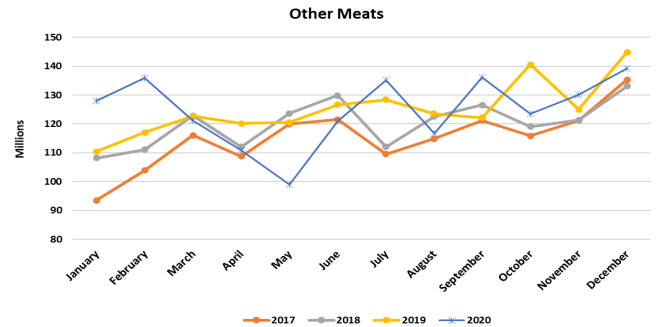
Beef exports totalled over €2.3 billion in 2020, a 2% decrease on 2019 figures.



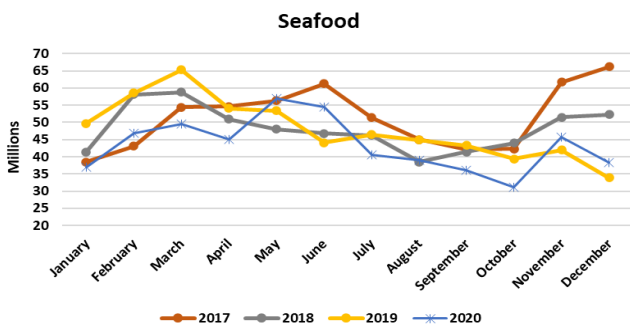
Beverage exports totalled over €1.45 billion in 2020, a 15% decrease on 2019 figures.



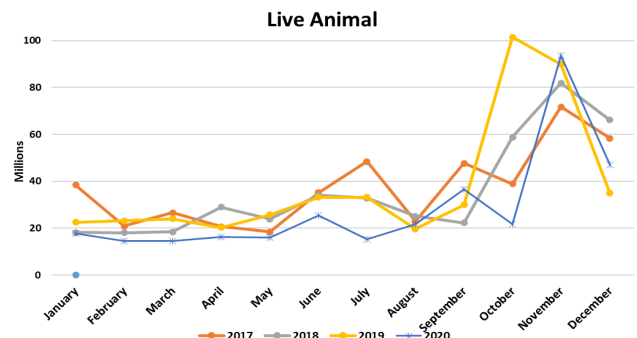
Other meat exports totalled just under €1.5 billion in 2020. This includes Pigmear exports €886m, sheep meat exports €354m and poultry exports at €255m. A slight 0.3% decrease on 2019 figures.



Seafood exports totalled over €520 million in 2020, a 9.8% decrease on 2019 figures.

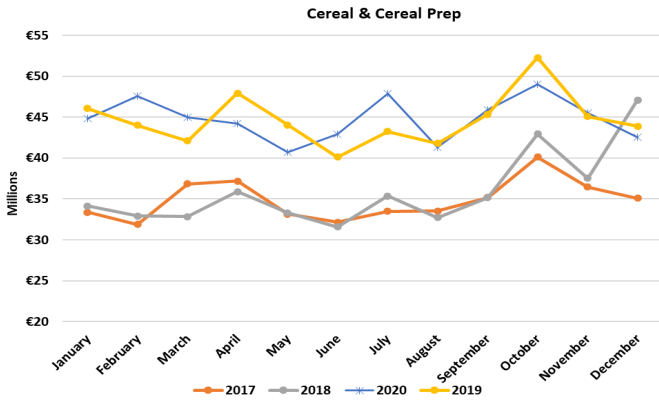


Live Exports totalled over €340 million in 2020, a 25% decrease on 2019 figures.

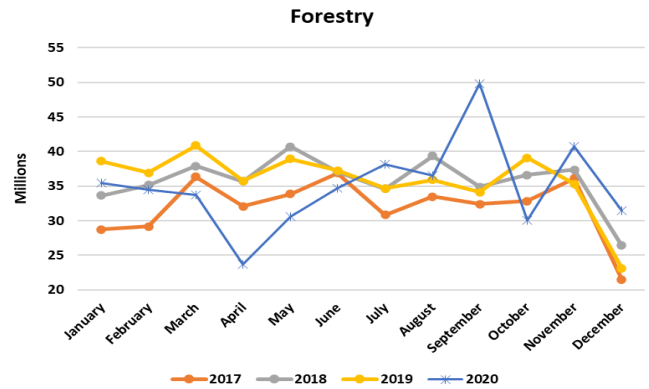




Cereal & Cereal Prep exports totalled €537 million in 2020, a slight 0.3% increase on 2019 figures.



Forestry exports totalled €419 million in 2020, a 2.6% decrease on 2019 figures.

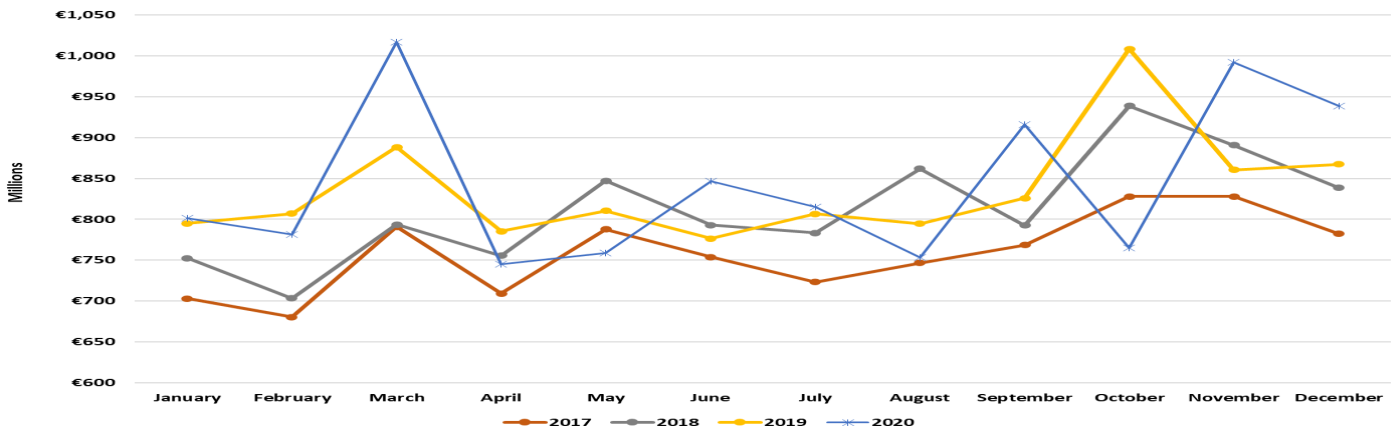


3. Agri-food sector trade - Imports

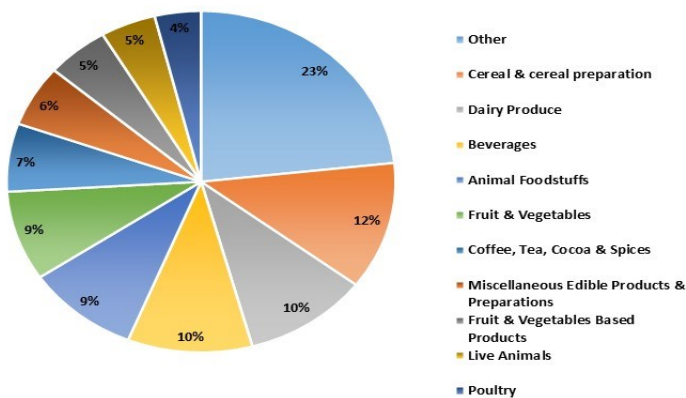


The agri-food sector accounted for 11.9% of Ireland's total imports in 2020. Between the period 2017 – 2020 agri-food imports increased by €1.1bn or 11%. Agri-food imports totalled over €10.1 billion in 2020, an increase of 1.5% on 2019 figures. The top five agri-food categories by value accounted for 50% of total agri-food sector imports in 2020 totalling over €5 billion. See pie chart below.

Value of Agri-food sector Imports, 2017– 2020



Agri-food sector imports by type, 2020



* Other includes: Sugar; Sugar Preparation & Honey; Forestry; Pigmeat; Live Animals; Fish; Wood Based Products; Vegetable Oils & Fats; Crude Animal & Vegetable Material; Beef; Sheep meat ;Oilseeds & Oleaginous; Fruit ;Other Meat & Meat Produce; Egg; Flax, Wool & Animal Hair; Animal Oils & Fats; Animal Skins & Furs; Cotton.

Top 10 Countries of origin for Agri-food sector Imports, 2020

Country	€000	Tonnes	% Total
UK	4,589,562	4,351,109	45%
Netherlands	910,884	765,527	9%
Germany	767,356	480,227	8%
France	548,101	595,408	5%
United States	311,154	652,653	4%
Belgium	302,395	321,854	3%
Spain	289,919	220,108	3%
Argentina	218,901	795,399	2%
Poland	211,286	146,492	2%
Italy	206,314	131,476	2%



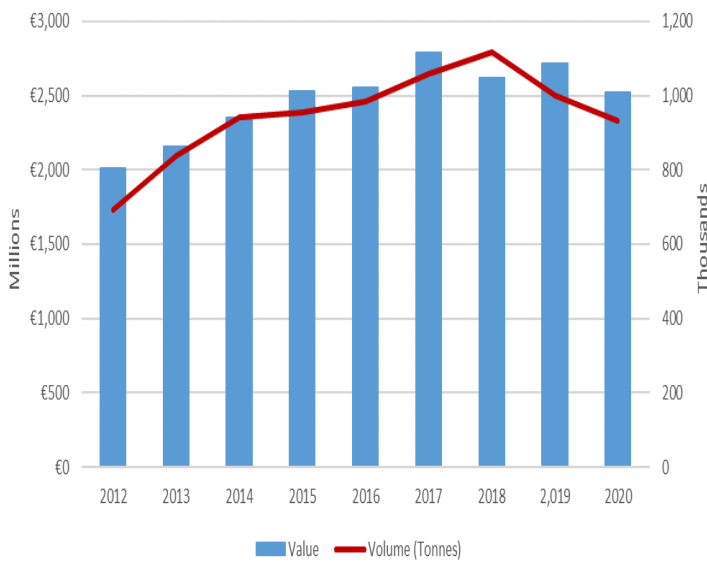
Prepared consumer foods are value added food and beverage products, which sell both domestically and internationally to retail, food service or other food companies. These goods are categorised into 15 areas identified and agreed by industry stakeholders, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Central Statistics Office.

4. Prepared Consumer Foods



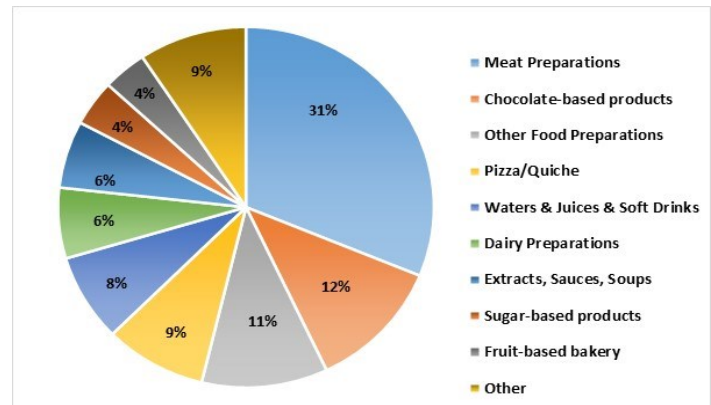
The Prepared Consumer Foods sector accounted for over €2.5 billion in agri-food sector exports in 2020, and €3.7 billion in imports. This resulted in a trade deficit of just over €1.2 billion. Between the period 2012 – 2020 prepared consumer food exports increased by over 25% from €2 billion to over €2.5 billion. Overall exports of Irish Prepared Consumer Foods decreased by 7.3% between 2019 and 2020.

Value and volume of Prepared Consumer Food exports by year, Top 5 destinations for PCF exports, 2020
2012 - 2020

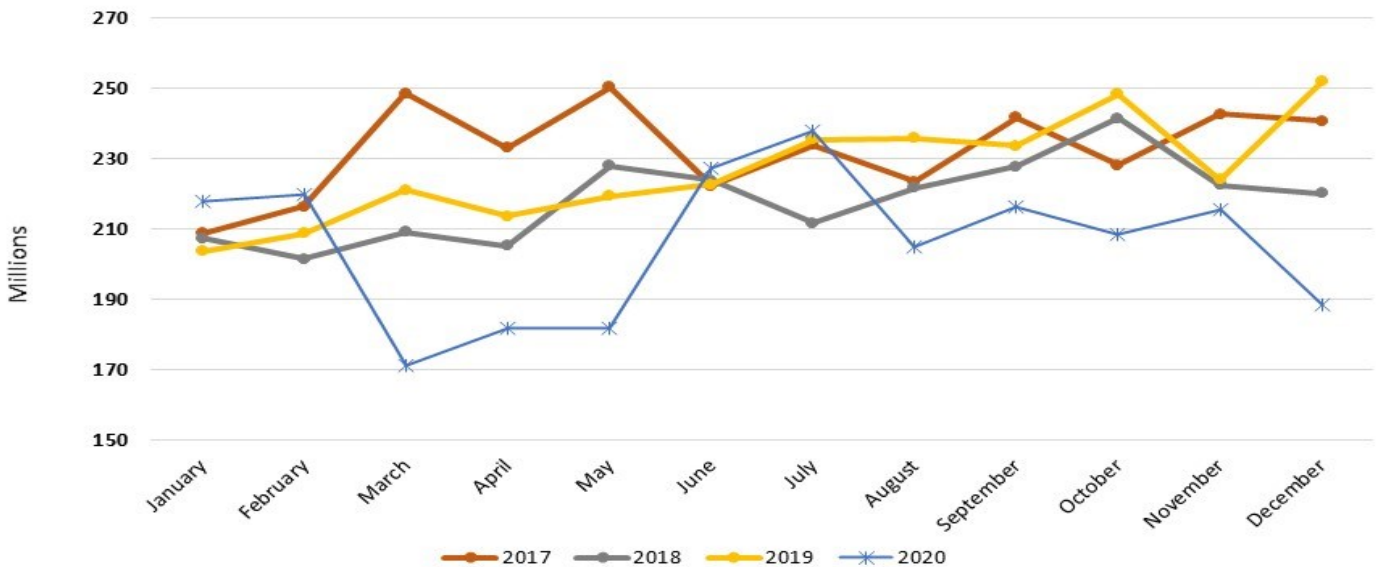


Country	€000	Tonnes	%
United Kingdom	1,679,173	762,669	66%
Germany	132,237	21,238	5%
France	116,558	21,903	5%
Netherlands	95,855	15,298	4%
United States	67,146	18,297	3%

PCF sector exports by type, 2020



Prepared Consumer Food Exports by month 2017–2020



Agri-food sector trade is broken down into 26 categories identified and agreed by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Central Statistics Office. Products and Raw Goods are categorised using combined nomenclature (CN) codes, a European harmonised system used to classify goods for customs and trade reasons. These categories include non edible Agri-food items such as Forestry and Animal Hides and Skins (not included as part of Bord Bia trade statistics), along with traditional Food and Beverage products. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data contained within, in view of the volume of statistical data collected as part of agri-food trade statistics, some errors in respect of individual products may occur. Where these anomalies are identified, the Department will liaise with the Central Statistics Office to highlight and amend the information as required. [March 2021](#)