



## **Partner Project: 2025 Global Food Fraud Report**

**March 2026**

LGC Report No.: LGC/NLS/OGC/R/2025/002

Merry Rivas, Gary Bird & Selvarani Elahi

© LGC Limited 2026

# Contents

|                                                                            |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1. Executive Summary .....</b>                                          | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>2. Background.....</b>                                                  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>3. Project Description.....</b>                                         | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>4. Regulatory Reports .....</b>                                         | <b>6</b>  |
| 4.1 By Quarter .....                                                       | 6         |
| 4.2 2025 Summary .....                                                     | 9         |
| 4.3 2023 - 2025 Summary.....                                               | 10        |
| <b>5. Regulatory, Media &amp; Peer Reviewed Publications Reports .....</b> | <b>12</b> |
| <b>6. Discussion .....</b>                                                 | <b>14</b> |
| <b>7. Conclusions .....</b>                                                | <b>15</b> |
| <b>8. Acknowledgements.....</b>                                            | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Annex 1: Agreed Food Commodity Group Categories.....</b>                | <b>17</b> |

## 1. Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of global food fraud reports from three commercial food fraud incident collation tools: FoodChain ID Food Fraud Database, HorizonScan and Safety HUD.

The number of regulatory food fraud reports published in 2025 remains very low compared to food safety reports; if analysis of regulatory food fraud reports is to be meaningful, more regulatory agencies should publish their data in an open access format.

Food fraud reports published by global regulatory agencies from 2023 to 2025 provide some evidence of an emerging upward trend. Further data is required to see if this is a consistent and continuing trend. For the same period, there is a clear upward trend in the number of food safety reports published by global regulatory agencies, which is concerning and should be further investigated.

The top three commodity groups with the most food fraud reports varies depending on the source of reports and the tool used:

- Using regulatory reports only, 'Processed foods', 'Milk & dairy products' and 'Beverages'.
- Using regulatory, media & peer reviewed publication reports, 'Dairy', 'Meat & Poultry' and 'Herbs & Spices'.

It should be noted that the featuring of commodity groups in this report does not necessarily mean that these are the foods associated with the most fraud, as reported food fraud incidents are a measure of actual food fraud incidents and regulatory activity. Thus, reporting is influenced by a range of factors including, sampling rate changes, targeted campaigns/ regulatory focus on commodity groups, inter-agency operations (e.g. Europol, Interpol etc.) and available budget.

Labelling, use of non-food substance, dilution/ substitution and artificial enhancement fraud were the top four types of food fraud in 2025. Of these frauds, using non-food substances in food has the potential to do the most harm as seen in the previous incidents such as, Sudan dyes in chilli powder<sup>1</sup> and melamine in infant formula<sup>2</sup>.

Commercial food fraud incident collation tools are not all the same; there are differences in purpose, how data are classified, collected and curated. Before choosing a tool, it is important to understand what it does so that the most appropriate tool for the intended purpose is selected.

This report is the third annual report to be produced for this FAN Partner project. Platinum and Gold [FAN Partners](#) receive dashboard reports at the end of each quarter. Please [contact FAN](#), if you are interested in receiving these reports.

## 2. Background

This project, 'Monitoring of Global Food Fraud Reports', was prioritised by Food Authenticity Network (FAN) funding [Partners](#) and selected for delivery from January 2023. The 2023 and 2024 Global Food Fraud Reports are available on the FAN [website](#).

This report is the third annual report to be produced for this FAN Partner project.

## 3. Project Description

FAN collaborated with the providers of three leading commercial food fraud incident collation tools for delivery of this project:

- FoodChain ID Food Fraud Database
- HorizonScan
- Safety Hud.

Collaborating with all three organisations, has enabled FAN to provide a more robust/representative view on global food fraud reports. All three organisations contribute data 'in kind' for this project and we gratefully acknowledge these contributions.

### 3.1 Tools

#### a. FoodChain ID



Website: <https://www.foodchainid.com/food-fraud-database/>

Contact Person: Karen Everstine, Technical Director

Contact Email: [FFDSupport@foodchainid.com](mailto:FFDSupport@foodchainid.com)

Food Chain ID's Food Fraud Database is a curated, searchable database of food fraud records to support Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)-required vulnerability assessments for foods, food ingredients, beverages, and animal food. The Food Fraud Database was not designed to capture the scope of fraud globally. It was designed to allow quick searching of information relevant to fraud risk to support mitigation plans. Records are created from public sources of data including peer-reviewed scientific publications, news reports, regulatory alerts, and other sources. Records include information about the location and type of fraud, whether the adulterants may be hazardous, and the credibility of incident reports. The system allows the creation of custom ingredient groups that can be based on recipes, commodity groups, facility, or other categorization. All information is reviewed by analysts and manually curated. Records are updated weekly.

Analysts curate and group related information and maintain detailed lexicons of ingredients and adulterants to enable searching and tracking relevant information over time. The two main record types are incident records (documented occurrences of fraud with contextual information) and inference records (supplemental information that informs fraud vulnerability). Commodity groups include dairy products, meat and poultry, seafood, honey, vegetable oils, olive oils, animal food, organic-labeled products, and others.

#### b. HorizonScan



Website: <https://horizon-scan.fera.co.uk>

Contact Person: Jordina Farrus Gubern, HorizonScan Lead

Contact Email: [horizonscan@fera.co.uk](mailto:horizonscan@fera.co.uk),  
[jordina.farrus@fera.co.uk](mailto:jordina.farrus@fera.co.uk)

HorizonScan is a web-based information service that pro-actively monitors food supply chain issues on a global scale.

Provided by Fera Science Ltd, HorizonScan is an established tool used by industry, governments and academia for over 10 years. The system tracks more than 500 commodity group exported from 180 countries. Food integrity reports are collected and standardised daily by a team of experts to give users 24/7 access to real-time data concerning pesticide and drug residues, mycotoxins, microbiological contamination, heavy metals, dioxins, allergens, food fraud issues and many more.

HorizonScan features allow the user to search by commodity, country of origin, type of threat and suppliers; as well as set up automatic alerts for the raw materials and issues most important to them. HorizonScan helps users to identify emerging and increasing issues, rank analytical priorities, research suppliers worldwide and also aids with the data needed to complete vulnerability assessments.

### c. Safety HUD



Website: <https://regulatory.mxns.com/en/safety-hud-new>  
Contact Person: Massimo Frera, Digital solutions project leader  
Contact Email: [massimo.frera@mxns.com](mailto:massimo.frera@mxns.com)

Safety HUD is a digital solution offered by Mérieux NutriSciences, which monitors international food fraud and safety alerts worldwide to reinforce the risk assessment of food products and raw materials, with the aim of increasing the security of global food supply chains.

Food safety and fraud alerts from 130 official food agencies in 85 countries as well as online media sources are monitored daily by regulatory/food safety experts and added to the Safety HUD database. Data starts from 2013 and in 2026, 185,000 items were registered with an average of 350 new items every week.

Safety HUD allows its users to run specific searches in the whole dataset to get clear numbers and statistics, including the traceability of the products hit by issues: push alerts and data downloads are other features included in the solution.

### 3.2 Discount for FAN Members

The tools provide a wealth of information such as countries with the highest reports, reporting countries, sub-classification of commodity groups etc., which can be accessed by subscription. FAN has arranged a discount for its members, which can be discussed by contacting the organisations directly.

### 3.3 Process

FAN Partners prioritised this project for funding in 2022, and the project commenced in 2023 with the quarterly collation and analysis of global regulatory food fraud reports from the three tools.

A template for collecting data was created and agreed with Food Chain ID, HorizonScan and Safety HUD (referred to as 'the data providers' hereon). On initial assessment of the Q1 2023 data, it emerged that it was possible to combine data from two (HorizonScan and Safety HUD) of the three tool providers so data from these tools were 'averaged'. Data from the third tool (Food Chain ID), is presented separately.

In addition, a common set of commodity group definitions, for the data from HorizonScan and Safety HUD, were agreed and is presented in Annex 1.

#### **4. Regulatory Reports**

The number of food fraud reports published by regulatory agencies provided by HorizonScan and Safety HUD are reported in this section.

##### **4.1 By Quarter**

The average number of regulatory food fraud and food safety reports by quarter are presented in Figure 1.

The top ten commodity groups with the greatest number of regulatory food fraud reports in 2025, by quarter, are presented in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Regulatory Food Fraud & Food Safety Reports in 2025, by quarter (average of two sources)

Quarter 1



Quarter 2



Quarter 3

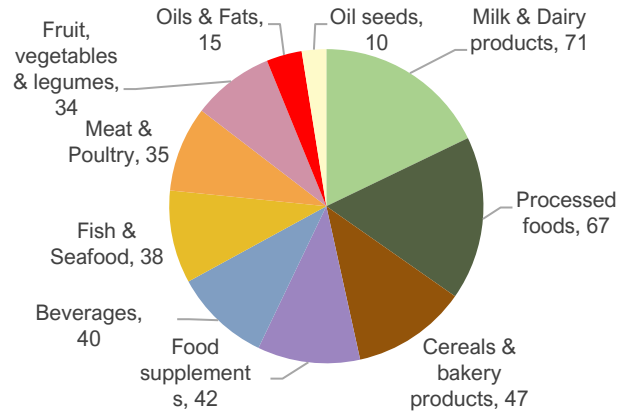


Quarter 4

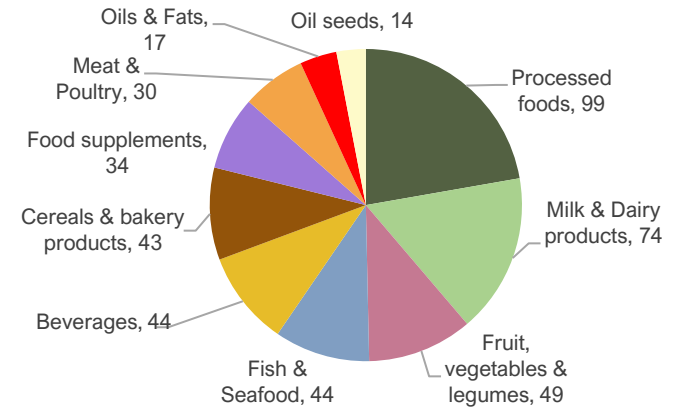


**Figure 2: Top 10 commodity groups with the greatest number of regulatory food fraud reports in 2025, by quarter (average of 2 sources)**

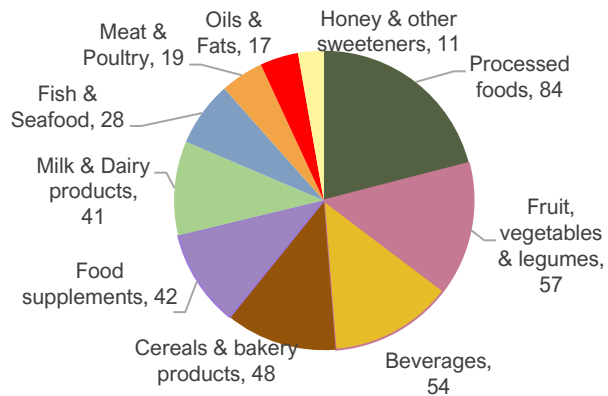
**Quarter 1**



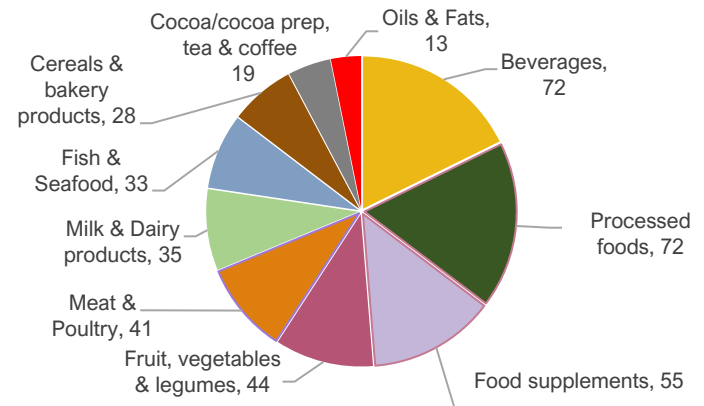
**Quarter 2**



**Quarter 3**

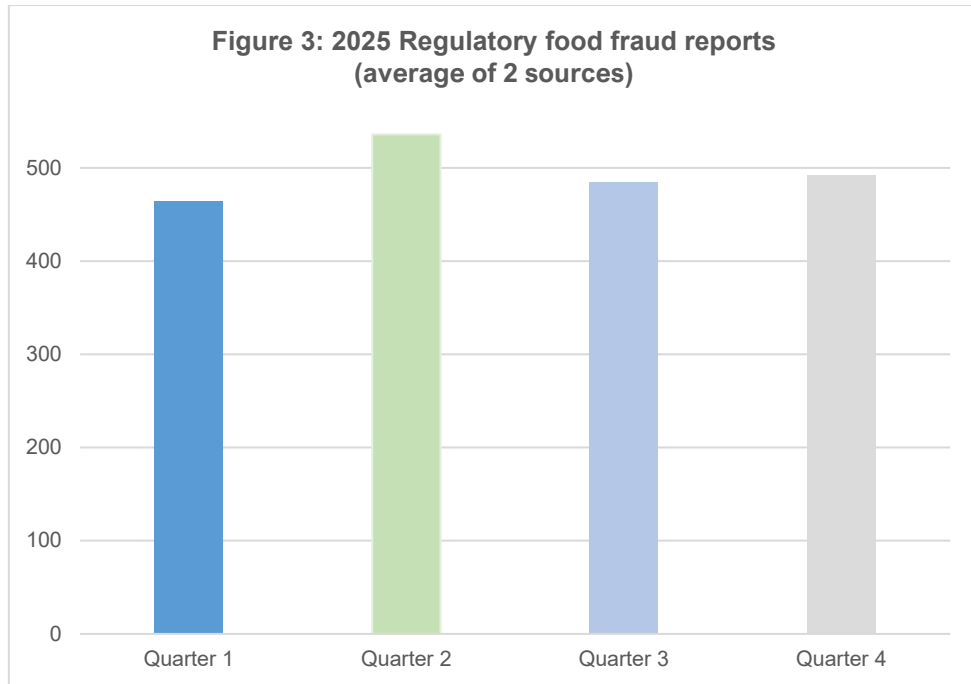


**Quarter 4**

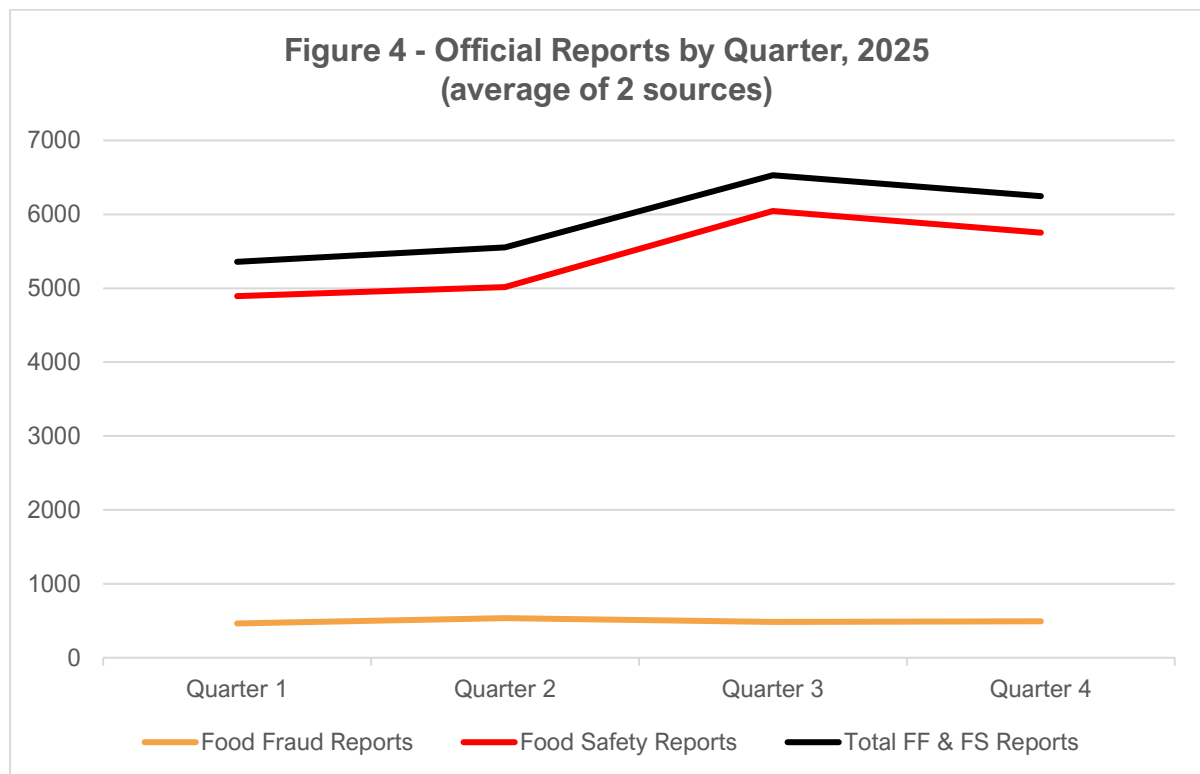


## 4.2 2025 Summary

The number of regulatory food fraud reports in 2025, by quarter, is presented in Figure 3.

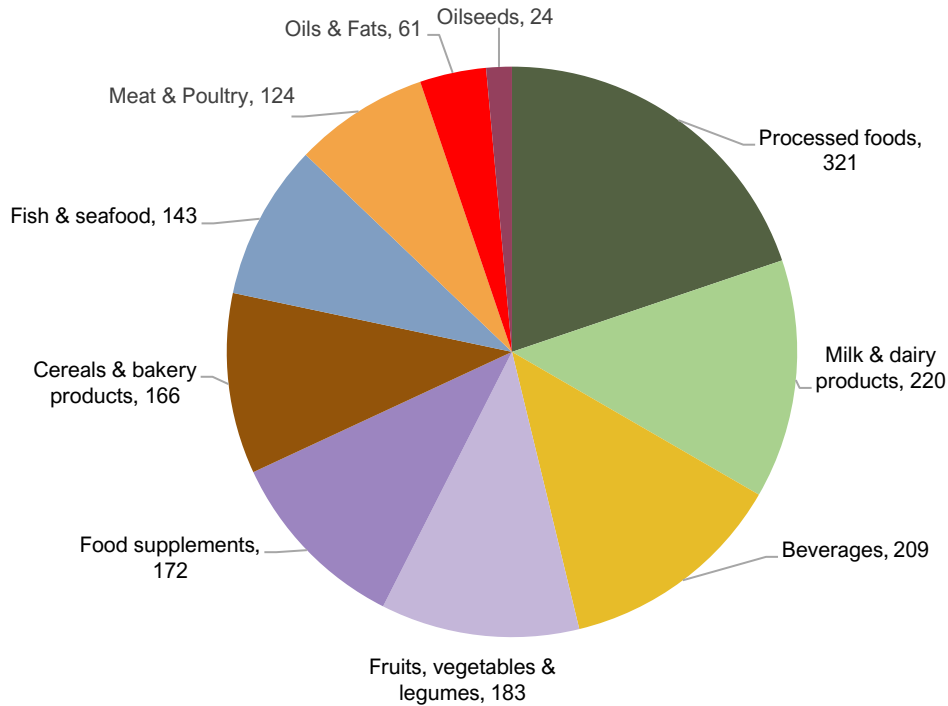


The number of food fraud, food safety and total number of regulatory reports in 2025, by quarter, is presented in Figure 4.



The top ten commodity groups with the greatest number of regulatory food fraud reports in 2025 are presented in Figure 5.

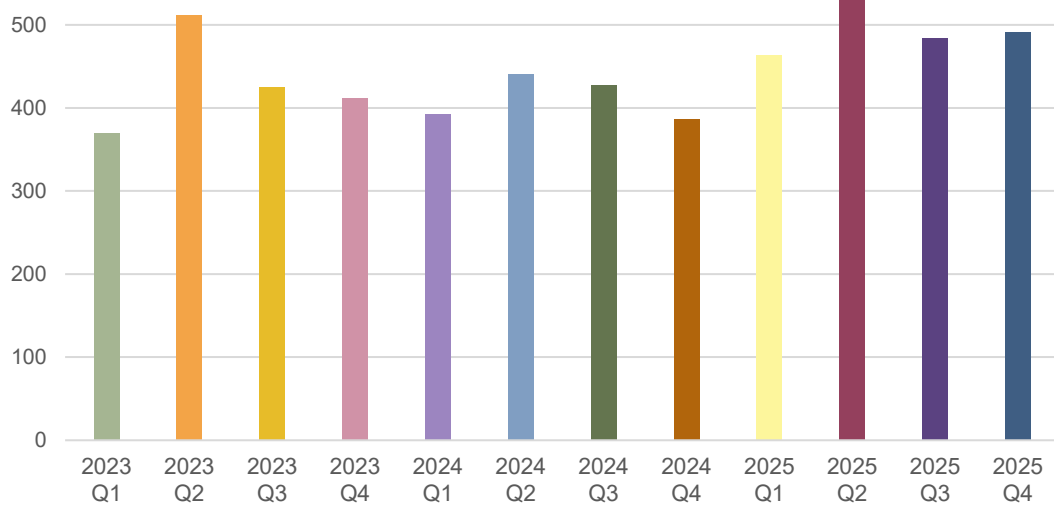
**Figure 5: Commodity groups with most regulatory food fraud reports in 2025**



### 4.3 2023 - 2025 Summary

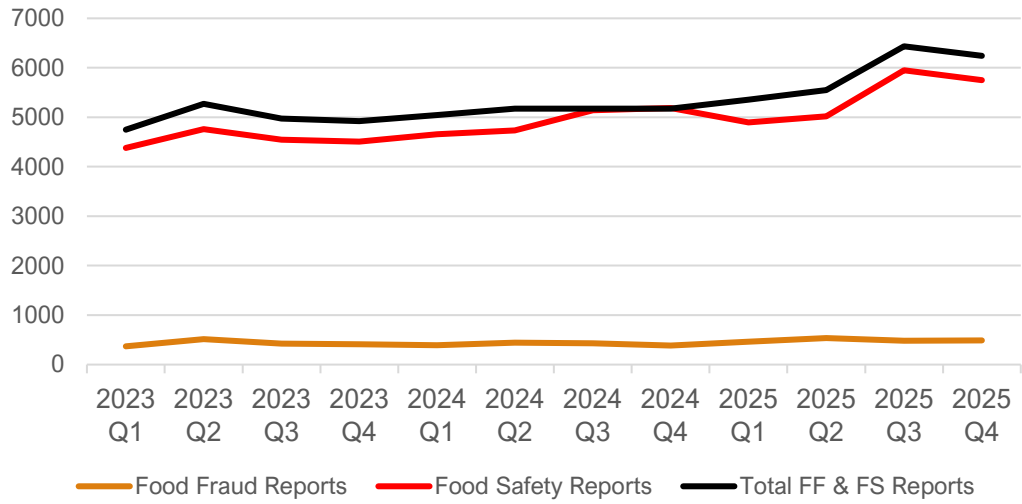
The number of regulatory food fraud reports from January 2023 to December 2025, by quarter, is presented in Figure 6.

**Figure 6: Rolling regulatory food fraud reports, 2023 - 2025 (average of 2 sources)**



The number of food fraud, food safety and total number of regulatory reports from January 2023 to December 2025, by quarter, is presented in Figure 7.

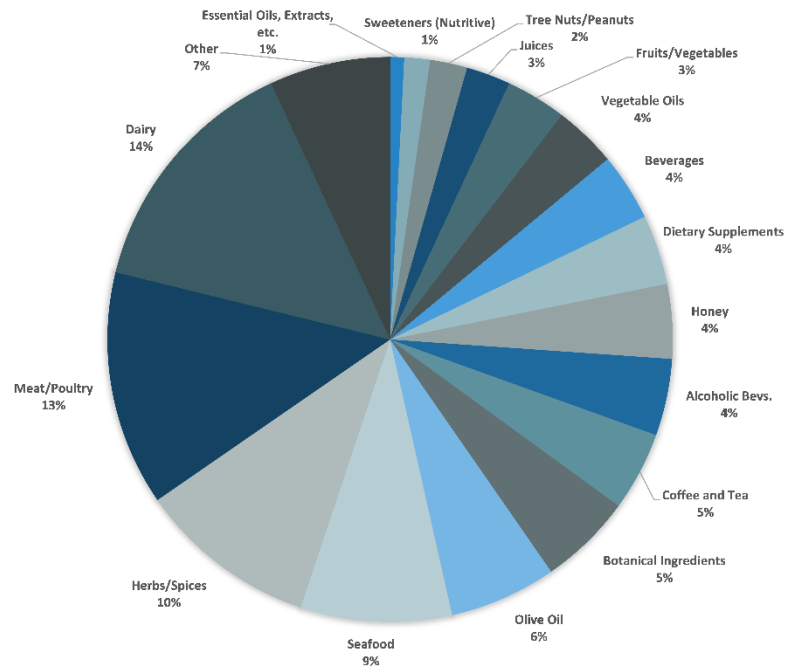
**Figure 7: Food fraud, food safety and total number of regulatory reports by quarter, 2023 - 2025 (average of two sources)**



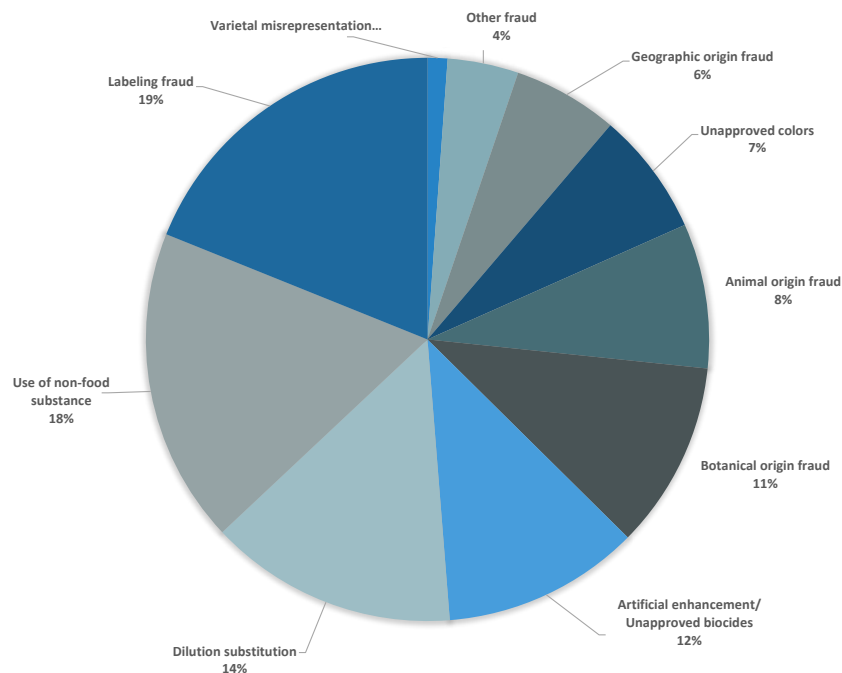
## 5. Regulatory, Media & Peer Reviewed Publications Reports

FAN has collaborated with Food Chain ID since 2021 to report data on foods most reported as being fraudulent; data for [2021 - 2024](#) are available on the FAN website, and data, updated to the end of 2025, is presented in Figures 8 - 11.

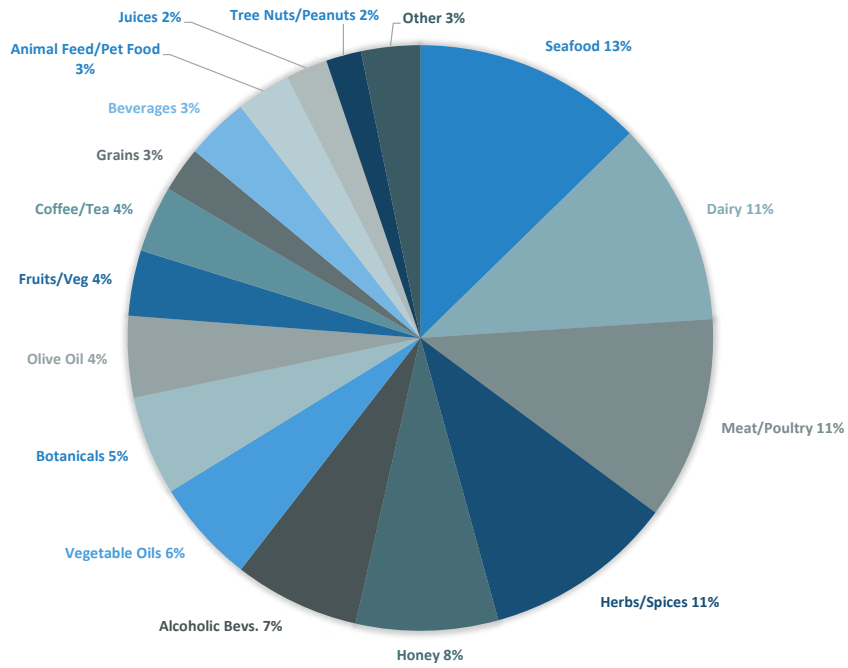
**Figure 8: Commodity groups, global food fraud data, 2025**



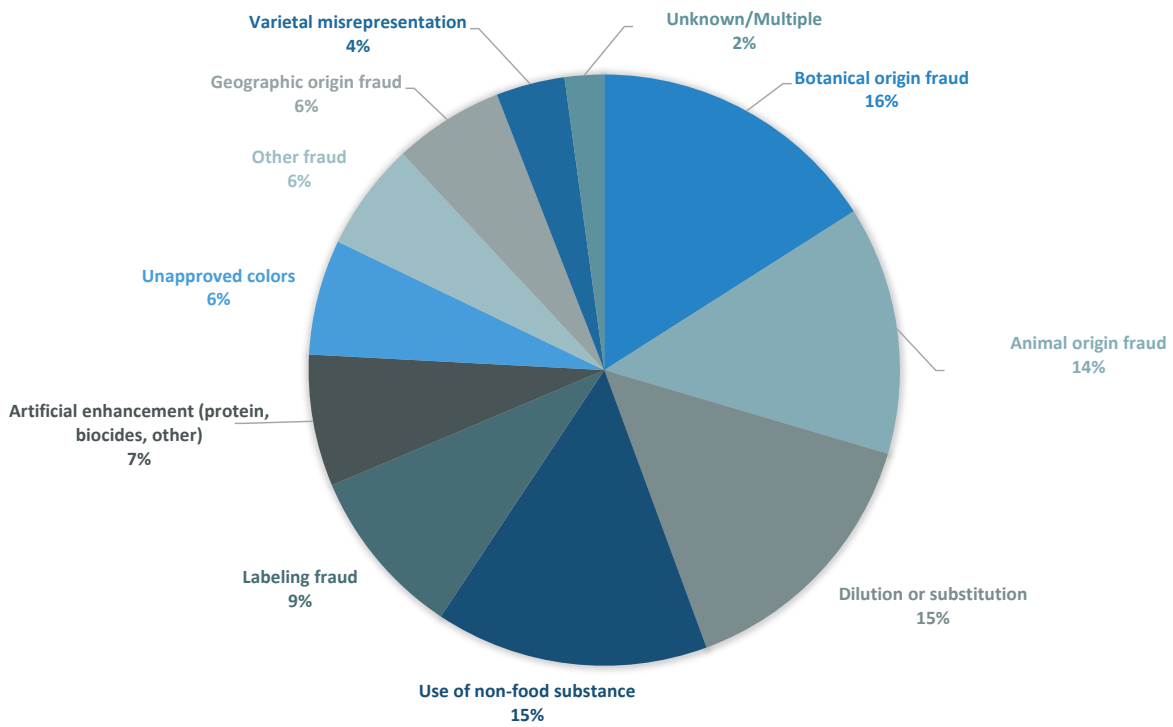
**Figure 9: Fraud types, global data, 2025**



**Figure 10: Commodity groups, food fraud data, 10 years (2015-2025)**



**Figure 11: Fraud types, 10 years (2015-2025)**



## 6. Discussion

Figure 2 shows that the ranking of individual commodity groups can vary by quarter, however, the vast majority of these feature consistently in the top ten commodity groups associated with the most fraud, as reported by regulatory agencies every quarter. This demonstrates that the most global regulatory reports of food fraud incidents are related to these commodity groups.

The top three commodity groups with the most food fraud reports varies depending on the source of reports and the tool used:

- Using regulatory reports only, 'Processed foods', 'Milk & dairy products' and 'Beverages'.
- Using regulatory, media & peer reviewed publication reports, 'Dairy', 'Meat & Poultry' and 'Herbs & Spices'.

Although only 'Milk & dairy products' is common in the top three foods with the greatest number of reports from the two different types of tool/ data source used, six commodity groups are common in the top ten foods with the greatest number of reports as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Commodity groups with the greatest number of food fraud reports in 2025**

| No. | Average of Horizon Scan and Safety HUD data | Data from Food Chain ID |
|-----|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1   | Processed foods                             | Dairy                   |
| 2   | Milk & dairy products                       | Meat & Poultry          |
| 3   | Beverages                                   | Herbs & spices          |
| 4   | Fruits, vegetables & legumes                | Seafood                 |
| 5   | Food supplements                            | Olive oil               |
| 6   | Cereals & bakery products                   | Botanical ingredients   |
| 7   | Fish & seafood                              | Coffee & Tea            |
| 8   | Meat & Poultry                              | Alcoholic beverages     |
| 9   | Oils & Fats                                 | Honey                   |
| 10  | Oil seeds                                   | Food supplements        |

Where 1 = highest number of reports.

In fact, many of these commodity groups are also common in Figure 10, which is the Food Chain ID data collected over a rolling ten-year period, demonstrating that these foods are being most reported as fraudulent, year on year.

Figure 8 shows that dairy and meat & poultry fraud were the commodity groups most reported as being fraudulent in 2025. These are also in the top four commodity groups with the most food frauds reports in the ten-year dataset shown in Figure 10.

Labelling, use of non-food substance, dilution/ substitution and artificial enhancement fraud were the top four types of food fraud in 2025. The use of non-food substance and dilution/ substitution fraud also feature in the top four types of food fraud in the ten-year dataset shown in Figure 11. Of these frauds, using non-food substances in food has the potential to do the most harm as seen in the Sudan dyes in chilli powder<sup>1</sup> and melamine in infant formula<sup>2</sup> incidents.

## Trends

There were no new sources of food fraud data reported by regulatory agencies in 2025. The data presented in Figures 1, 3 and 4, show that the number of regulatory food fraud reports (1,976 per annum) remains very low in comparison to food safety reports (21,705) for 2025.

The number of food fraud reports by quarter (Figures 3 & 4), were relatively close to the year average of 494 reports, showing that there is no evidence of any consistent, significant trend in 2025. However, for the period January 2023 to December 2025, there is some evidence<sup>3</sup> of an emerging upward trend in the number of food fraud reports from global regulatory agencies. Further data is required to see if this is a consistent and continuing trend.

In comparison, there is a clear upward trend<sup>4</sup> in the number of food safety reports (Figures 4 & 7) from global regulatory agencies.

## 7. Conclusions

Food fraud reports published by global regulatory agencies from 2023 to 2025 provide some evidence of an emerging upward trend. Further data is required to see if this is a consistent and continuing trend.

The clear upward trend in the number of food safety reports published by global regulatory agencies is concerning and should be further investigated.

The top three commodity groups with the most food fraud reports varies depending on the source of reports and the tool used:

- Using regulatory reports only, 'Processed foods', 'Milk & dairy products' and 'Beverages'.
- Using regulatory, media & peer reviewed publication reports, 'Dairy', 'Meat & Poultry' and 'Herbs & Spices'.

It should be noted that the featuring of commodity groups in this report does not necessarily mean that these are the foods associated with the most fraud, as reported food fraud incidents are a measure of the actual number of food fraud incidents and regulatory activity. Thus, reporting is influenced by a range of factors including, sampling rate changes, targeted campaigns/ regulatory focus on commodity groups, inter-agency operations (e.g. Europol, Interpol etc.) and available budget.

---

<sup>1</sup> [ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/memo\\_05\\_61](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/memo_05_61)

<sup>2</sup> [Melamine-contaminated powdered infant formula in China - update 2](#)

<sup>3</sup> Linear regression, p=0.045 for the gradient.

<sup>4</sup> Linear regression, p=0.003 for the gradient.

Labelling, use of non-food substance, dilution/ substitution and artificial enhancement fraud were the top four types of food fraud in 2025. Of these frauds, using non-food substances in food has the potential to do the most harm as seen in the previous incidents such as, Sudan dyes in chilli powder<sup>1</sup> and melamine in infant formula<sup>2</sup>.

The number of regulatory food fraud reports published in 2025 remains very low compared to food safety reports; if analysis of regulatory food fraud reports is to be meaningful, more regulatory agencies should publish their data in an open access format.

Commercial food fraud incident collation tools are not all the same; there are differences in purpose, how data are classified, collected and curated. Before choosing a tool, it is important to understand what it does so that the most appropriate tool for the intended purpose is selected.

This report is the third annual report to be produced for this FAN Partner project. Platinum and Gold [FAN Partners](#) receive dashboard reports at the end of each quarter. Please [contact FAN](#), if you are interested in receiving these reports.

## **8. Acknowledgements**

We are grateful to Fera Science Ltd., FoodChain ID, and Mérieux NutriSciences for participating in this project on a pro-bono basis.

We are also grateful to our Partners (BRCGS (LGC Assure), Dr Ehrenstorfer and LGC Axio, Food Industry Intelligence Network, Institute of Food Science & Technology, McCormick & Company, Natural Trace, and SSAFE) for funding this work.

This report has been produced by the Executive Team of the Food Authenticity Network (LGC Ltd.) in collaboration with FoodChain ID, HorizonScan (Fera Science Ltd.) and Safety HUD (Mérieux NutriSciences) after exercise of all reasonable care and skill but is provided without liability in its application and use. The research was commissioned using funding from the above-named FAN Partners. The views expressed reflect the research findings and the authors interpretation; they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of LGC Ltd., Fera Science Ltd., Mérieux NutriSciences, FoodChainID or any of the FAN Partner organisations. No responsibility can be taken for the use made of this information.

## Annex 1: Agreed Food Commodity Group Categories

| Agreed description                      | Description used by tool providers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Excludes                 |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Beverages                               | Non-alcoholic beverages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Excluding bottled water  |
|                                         | Alcoholic beverages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                          |
|                                         | Fresh juices & concentrates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |
|                                         | Wine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                          |
| Cereals & bakery products               | Cereals and bakery products                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |
|                                         | Cereals - processed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                          |
|                                         | Cereals - unprocessed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                          |
|                                         | Other processed starch foods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                          |
| Cocoa, cocoa preparations, coffee & tea | Tea (dried lvs & stalks, C. sinesis), coffee, cocoa, carobs                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |
|                                         | Herbal infusions (dried) - flowers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                          |
|                                         | Herbal infusions (dried) - leaves                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |
|                                         | Herbal infusions (dried) - other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          |
| Fish & Seafood                          | Fish and seafood                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          |
|                                         | Seafood                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                          |
| Food supplements                        | Dietetic foods, food supplements, fortified foods                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |
| Fruit, vegetables & legumes             | Pulses, root & tuber vegetables (tropical & potatoes), berries & small fruit, fruiting vegetables, brassica vegetables, miscellaneous fruit (inedible peel, small & large), citrus fruits, other seeds - sprouted, bulb vegetables, fresh herbs & leaf vegetables, fungi | Dried fruit & vegetables |
|                                         | Miscellaneous fruit - edible peel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |
|                                         | Stone fruit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |
|                                         | Pome fruit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                          |
| Honey & other sweeteners                | Honey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                          |
|                                         | Other sweeteners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          |
|                                         | Products of animal origin (other)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |
| Meat & Poultry                          | Meat & poultry                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                          |
|                                         | Poultry meat and poultry products                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |
|                                         | Meat and meat products (excl. poultry)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                          |
|                                         | Meat-snails                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |
| Milk & dairy products                   | Milk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                          |
|                                         | Dairy products                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                          |
|                                         | Products of animal origin (dairy)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |
|                                         | Products of animal origin (other)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |
| Oils & Fats                             | Olive oil                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                          |

|                 |                                                                                                                           |  |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|                 | Vegetable oils                                                                                                            |  |
|                 | Oils                                                                                                                      |  |
|                 | Oils & Fats                                                                                                               |  |
| Oil seeds       | HS: Canola, soybean, corn, cottonseed, grapeseed, safflower, sunflower, rice bran, and peanut oils                        |  |
|                 | SH: argan, cannabis, coconut, grapeseed, linseed, palm, peanuts, rapeseed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower and wheat germ oil |  |
|                 | Oilseed products (other than oil)                                                                                         |  |
| Processed foods | Processed foods                                                                                                           |  |
|                 | Prepared dishes and snacks                                                                                                |  |
|                 | Finished product                                                                                                          |  |
|                 | Soups broths sauces condiments                                                                                            |  |
|                 | Canned foods                                                                                                              |  |

\* For Regulatory Food Fraud Reports from HorizonScan and Safety HUD only.