

# Wave 5 Key Findings: Introduction

## The Food Standards Agency: role, remit and responsibilities

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is a non-ministerial government department working to protect public health and consumers' wider interests in relation to food in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland ([footnote 1](#)). The FSA's overarching mission is 'food you can trust'. The FSA's vision as set out in the [2022-2027 strategy](#) is a food system in which:

- Food is safe
- Food is what it says it is
- Food is healthier and more sustainable

Food and You 2 is designed to monitor the FSA's progress against this mission and inform policy decisions by measuring consumers' self-reported knowledge, attitudes and behaviours related to food safety and other food issues in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland on a regular basis.

## Food and You 2: Wave 5

Food and You 2: Wave 5 data were collected between 26 April and 24 July 2022. A total of 6,770 adults from 4,727 households across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland completed the survey (an overall response rate of 29.3%).

Food and You 2: Wave 5 data were collected during a period of political and economic change and uncertainty following the UK's exit from the EU in 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic. This context is likely to have had an impact on the level of food security, concerns and food-related behaviours reported in Food and You 2 ([footnote 2](#)).

Food and You 2 is a modular survey, with 'core' modules included every wave, 'rotated' modules repeated annually or biennially, and 'exclusive' modules asked on a one-off basis. The modules presented in this report include: 'Food you can trust' (core); 'Concerns about food' (core); 'Food security' (core); 'Eating at home' (rotated); 'Food shopping' (rotated).

This report presents key findings from the Food and You 2: Wave 5 survey. Not all questions asked in the Wave 5 survey are included in the report. The full results are available in the accompanying full data set and tables.

## Interpreting the findings

To highlight the key differences between socio-demographic and other sub-groups, variations in responses are typically reported only where the absolute difference is 10 percentage points or larger and is statistically significant at the 5% level ( $p < 0.05$ ). However, some differences between socio-demographic and other sub-groups are included where the difference is less than 10 percentage points, when the finding is notable or judged to be of interest. These differences are indicated with a double asterisk (\*\*).

In some cases, it was not possible to include the data of all sub-groups, however such analyses are available in the full data set and tables. Key information is provided for each reported question in the footnotes, including:

- question wording (question) and response options (response).
- number of respondents presented with each question and description of the respondents who answered the question (Base= N).
- 'Please note:' indicates important points to consider when interpreting the results.

## Future publication plans

Modules expected to be reported in the Food and You 2: Wave 6 Key Findings report include, 'Food you can trust' (core), 'Concerns about food' (core), 'Food security' (core), 'Food hypersensitivities, (rotated) and 'Eating at home' (core).

1. In Scotland, the non-ministerial office [Food Standards Scotland](#), is responsible for ensuring food is safe to eat, consumers know what they are eating and improving nutrition.
2. For example, [Consumer insights tracker report: key findings from December 2021 to March 2022 \(2022\)](#), FSA. [The UK Public's Interests, Needs and Concerns Around Food \(2022\)](#), Bright Harbour. [Food in a pandemic \(2021\)](#). FSA.

[Family Resources Survey \(FRS\): financial year 2020 to 2021 \(2021\)](#). DWP. The FRS asks respondents to report experiences of food insecurity in the last 30 days so responses cannot be compared with Food and You 2.