

F&Y2 Wave 8: Chapter 4 Eating out and takeaways

Introduction

[The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme](#) (FHRS) helps people make informed choices about where to eat out or shop for food by giving clear information about the businesses' hygiene standards. Ratings are typically given to places where food is supplied, sold or consumed, including restaurants, pubs, cafés, takeaways, food vans and stalls.

The FSA runs the scheme in partnership with local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. A food safety officer from the local authority inspects a business to check that it follows food hygiene law so that the food is safe to eat. Businesses are given a rating from 0 to 5. A rating of 5 indicates that hygiene standards are very good and a rating of 0 indicates that urgent improvement is required.

Food businesses are provided with a sticker which shows their FHRS rating. In England businesses are encouraged to display their FHRS rating, however in Wales and Northern Ireland food businesses are legally required to display their FHRS rating ([footnote 1](#)). FHRS ratings are also available on the FSA website.

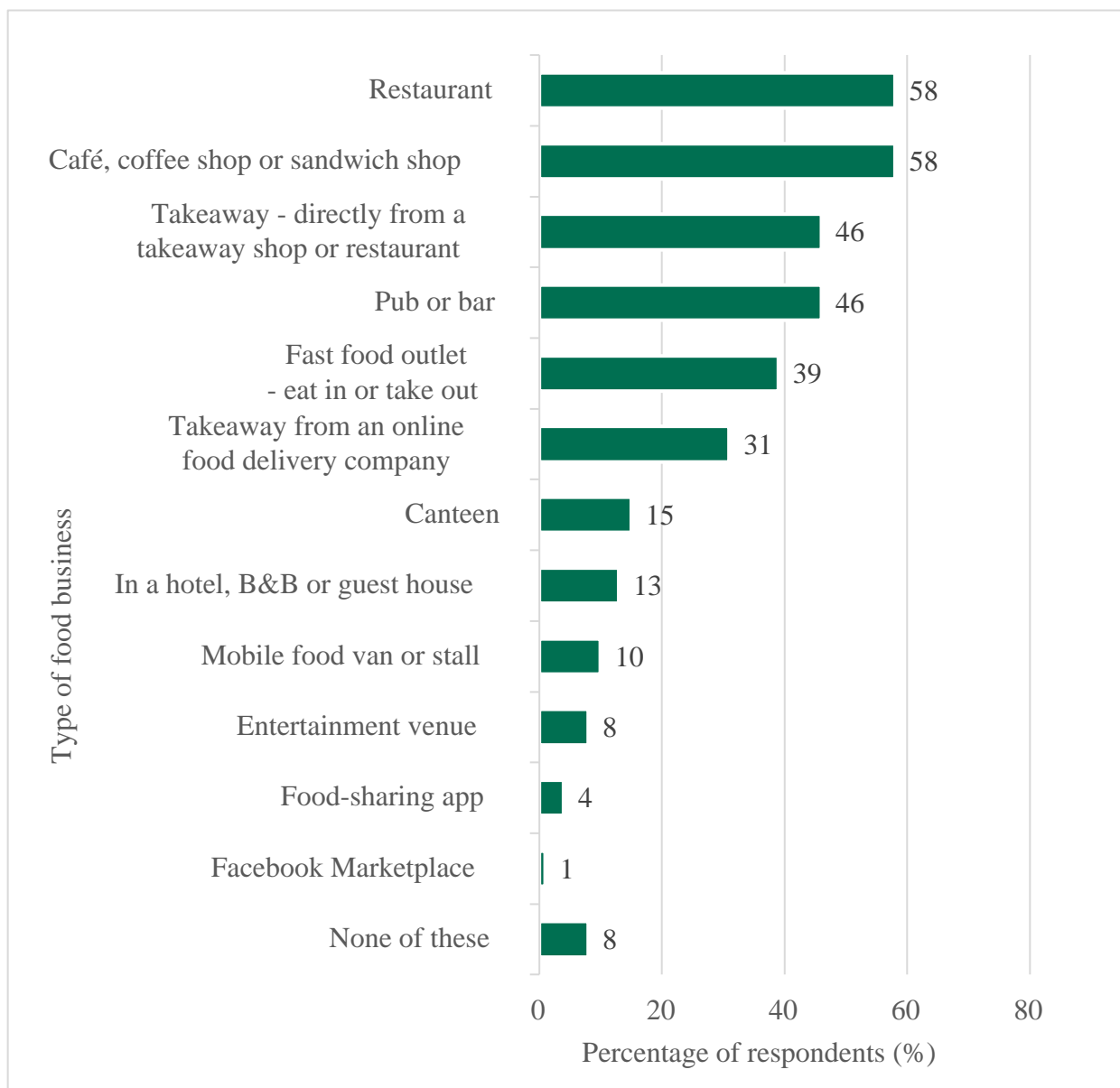
This chapter provides an overview of respondents' eating out and takeaway ordering habits, the factors that are considered when deciding where to eat out or order a takeaway from, and recognition and use of the FHRS.

Prevalence of eating out and ordering takeaways

Figure 10. Type of food business respondents had eaten at or ordered food from in the previous 4 weeks.

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Type of food business	Percentage of respondents (%)
None of these	8
Facebook Marketplace	1
Food-sharing app	4
Entertainment venue	8
Mobile food van or stall	10
In a hotel, B&B or guest house	13
Canteen	15
Takeaway from an online food delivery company	31
Fast food outlet - eat in or take out	39
Pub or bar	46
Takeaway - directly from a takeaway shop or restaurant	46
Cafe, coffee shop or sandwich shop	58
Restaurant	58

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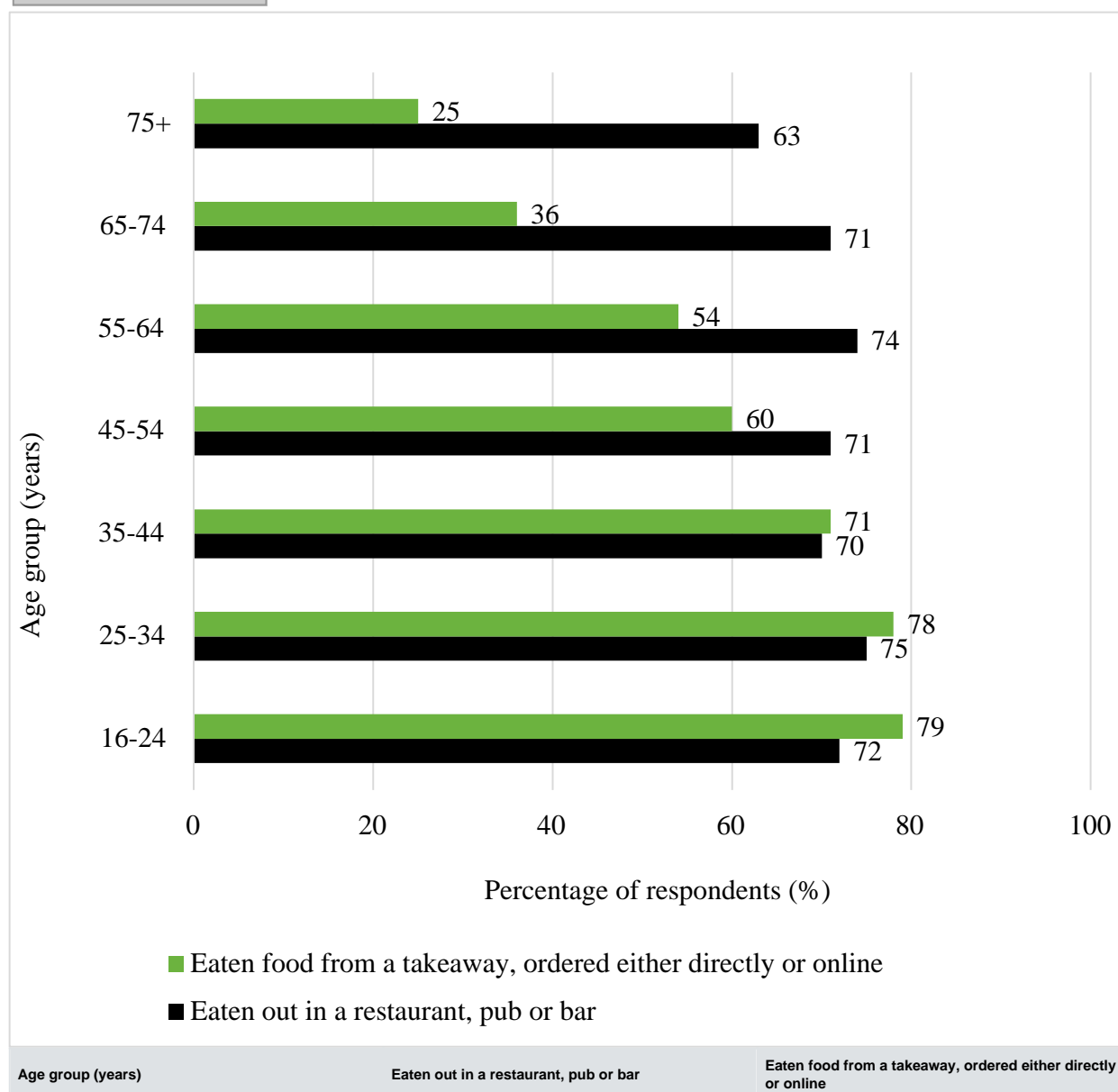
Source: Food & You 2: Wave 8

Respondents were asked where they had eaten food from in the previous four weeks. Around 6 in 10 respondents had eaten food in a restaurant (58%), or a café, coffee shop or sandwich shop (either to eat in or take out) (58%). Over 4 in 10 had eaten food from a takeaway ordered directly from a takeaway shop or restaurant (46%), or in a pub or bar (46%), and 39% had eaten food at a fast-food outlet (either to eat in or take out). Around 3 in 10 (31%) had eaten food from a takeaway ordered from an online food delivery company (for example, Just Eat, Deliveroo, Uber Eats). Around 1 in 10 (8%) respondents had not eaten food from any of the listed food businesses in the previous 4 weeks (Figure 10) [\(footnote 2\)](#).

Figure 11. Prevalence of eating out in a restaurant, pub or bar, or from a takeaway by age group in the previous 4 weeks.

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16-24	72	79
25-34	75	78
35-44	70	71
45-54	71	60
55-64	74	54
65-74	71	36
75+	63	25

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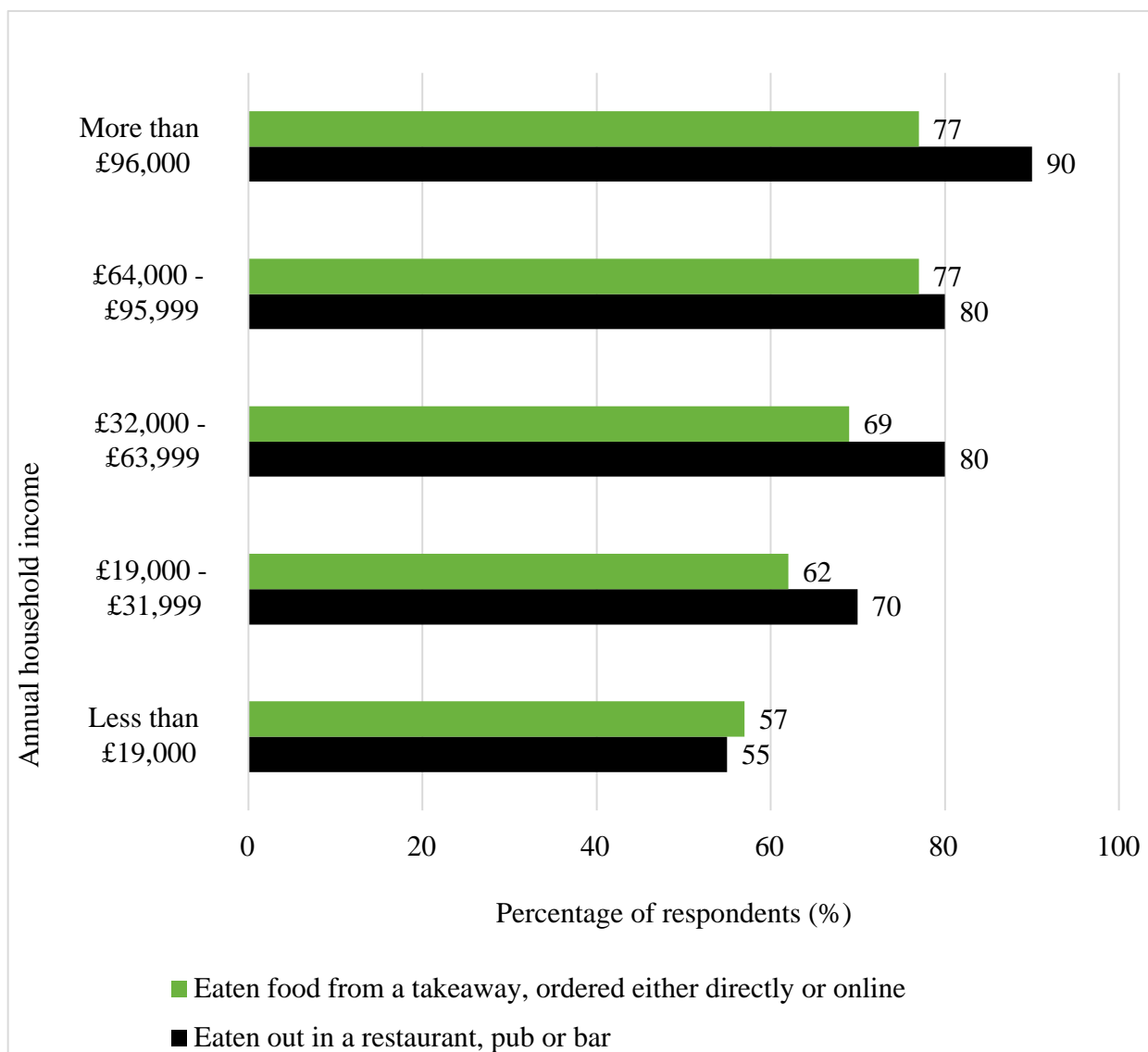
Source: Food and You 2: Wave 8

Younger respondents were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway (ordered directly or from an online food delivery company) in the previous four weeks compared to older respondents. However, the likelihood that respondents had eaten in a restaurant, pub or bar did not differ greatly between most age groups. For example, 79% of those aged between 16 and 24 years had eaten food from a takeaway compared to 25% of those aged 75 years or over. In comparison, 72% of those aged between 16 and 24 years had eaten in a restaurant, pub or bar compared to 71% of those aged 65-74 years (Figure 11).

Figure 12. Prevalence of eating out in a restaurant, pub or bar, or from a takeaway by annual household income in the previous 4 weeks.

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Annual household income	Eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar	Eaten food from a takeaway, ordered either directly or online
Less than £19,000	55	57
£19,000 - £31,999	70	62
£32,000 - £63,999	80	69
£64,000 - £95,999	80	77
More than £96,000	90	77

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Source: Food and You 2: Wave 8

Respondents with a higher household income were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar, or have eaten food from a takeaway (ordered directly or from an online food delivery company) in the previous 4 weeks compared to respondents with a lower income. For example, 80% of respondents with an income between £64,000 and £95,999 had eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar compared to 55% of those with an income of £19,000 or below. Similarly, 69% of respondents with an income between £64,000 and £95,999 had eaten food from a takeaway (ordered directly or from an online food delivery company) compared to 53% of those with an income of less than £19,000 (Figure 12).

The prevalence of eating out in a restaurant, pub or bar or eating food from a takeaway (ordered directly or from an online food delivery company) in the previous 4 weeks also varied between different types of people in the following ways:

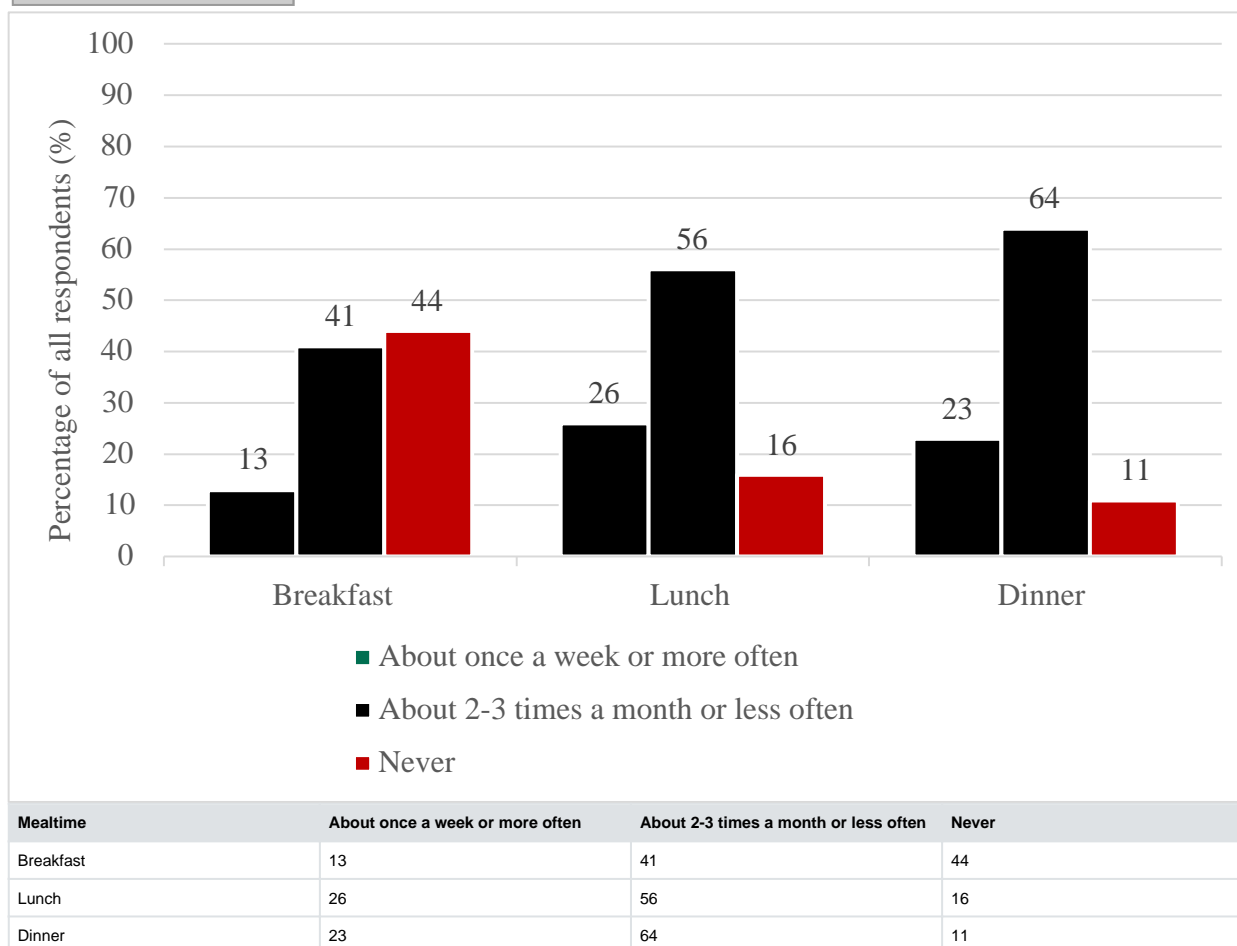
- Household size: respondents who lived in larger households were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway than those who lived in smaller households. For example, 78% of respondents living in a household of 5-persons or more had eaten food from a takeaway compared to 40% of respondents living alone.
- Children under 16 years in household: respondents who had children in the household (70%) were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway than those who did not have children aged 16 years or under in the household (55%). Conversely, those who did not have children aged 16 years or under in the household (73%) were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar compared to those with children aged 16 years or under in the household (65%)**.
- NS-SEC ([footnote 3](#)): respondents in some occupational groups (for example, 78% of those in managerial, administrative and professional occupations) were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar compared to those who were long-term unemployed and/or had never worked (61%) and those in lower supervisory and technical occupations (66%), or semi-routine and routine occupations (48%). However, full-time students (82%) were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway than those in occupational groups (for example, 56% in intermediate occupations) and those who were long term unemployed and/or had never worked (66%).
- Regions (England): respondents in London (79%), and South-West England (77%) were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar than those in North-East England (61%). Conversely, respondents in North-East England (72%) were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway than those in Yorkshire and the Humber (59%), South-East England (56%), London (55%), East Midlands (55%), and South-West England (55%).
- Urban/rural: respondents living in an urban area (61%) were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway than those living in a rural area (50%). However, the prevalence of eating out in a restaurant, pub or bar did not differ between those who lived in urban (71%) or rural (71%) areas**.
- Food security: respondents with high (77%) food security were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar than those with marginal (72%)**, low (67%) or very low (54%) food security. However, respondents with high (54%) food security were less likely to have eaten food from a takeaway than those with marginal (65%), low (66%) or very low (69%) food security.
- Ethnic group: white respondents (73%) were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar compared to Asian or Asian British respondents (64%)**, however Asian or Asian British respondents (70%) were more likely to have eaten food from a takeaway compared to white respondents (58%) ([footnote 4](#)).
- Long term health condition: respondents with no long-term health condition (75%) were more likely to have eaten out in a restaurant, pub or bar compared to respondents who had a long-term health condition (64%), however the prevalence of eating food from a takeaway did not differ greatly between those with (56%) or without (61%) a long-term health condition**.

Eating out and takeaways by mealtime

Figure 13. Frequency of eating out or buying food to takeout by mealtime.

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Source: Food and You 2: Wave 8

Respondents were asked how often they ate out or bought food to take out for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Respondents were least likely to eat out or buy food to take out for breakfast, with 44% of respondents never doing this. Over half of respondents (56%) reported that they ate out or bought takeout food for lunch 2-3 times a month or less often. Respondents were most likely to eat out or buy food to take out for dinner, with 64% doing this 2-3 times a month or less often and 23% doing this about once a week or more often (Figure 13) ([footnote 5](#)).

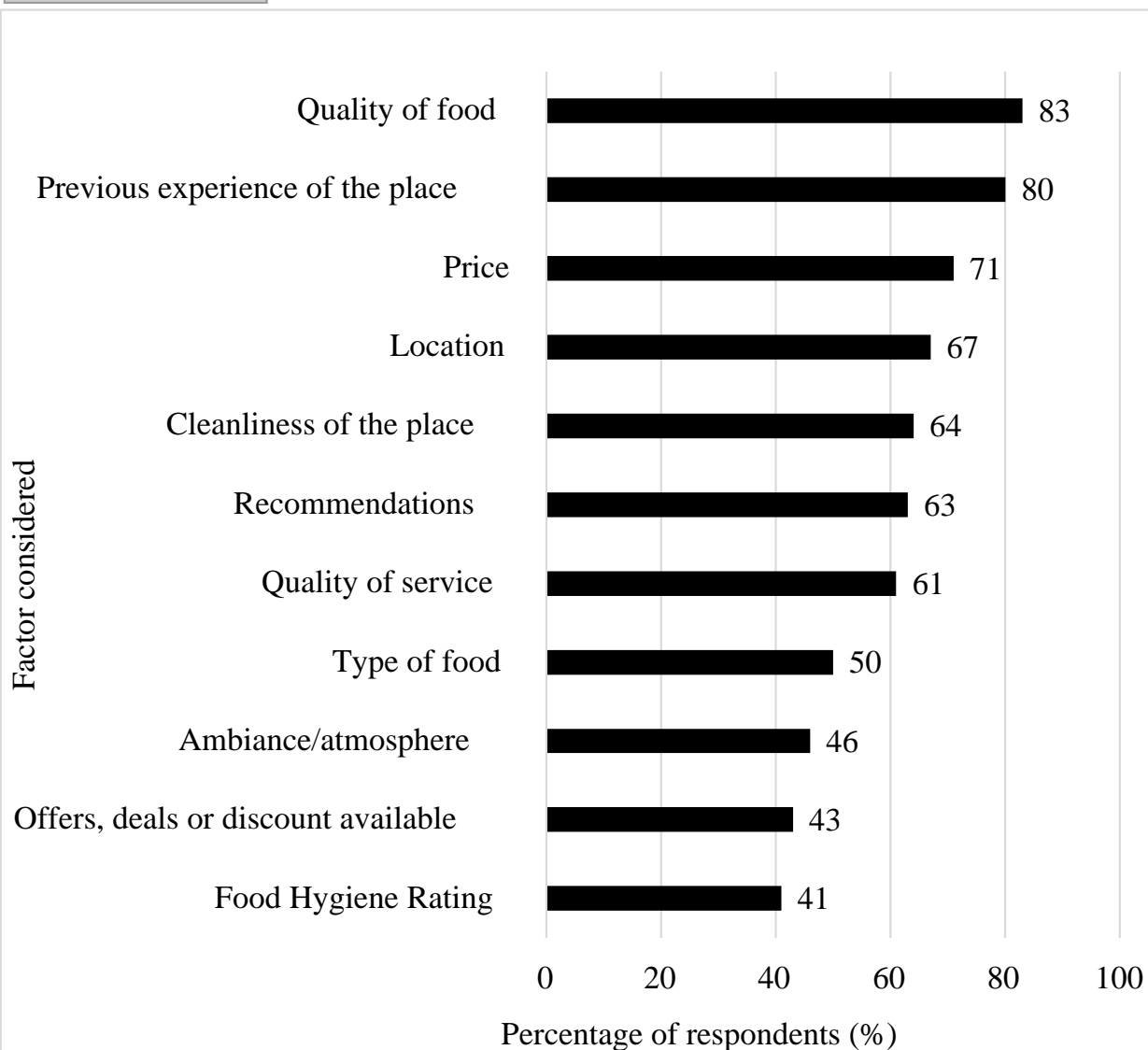
Factors considered when eating out

Respondents were asked which factors, from a given list, they generally considered when deciding where to eat out in restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés, coffee shops or sandwich shops.

Figure 14. Factors considered when deciding where to eat out.

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Factors considered	Percentage of respondents (%)
Food Hygiene Rating	41
Offers, deals or discount available	43
Ambiance/atmosphere	46
Type of food	50
Quality of service	61
Recommendations	63
Cleanliness of the place	64
Location	67
Price	71
Previous experience of the place	80
Quality of food	83

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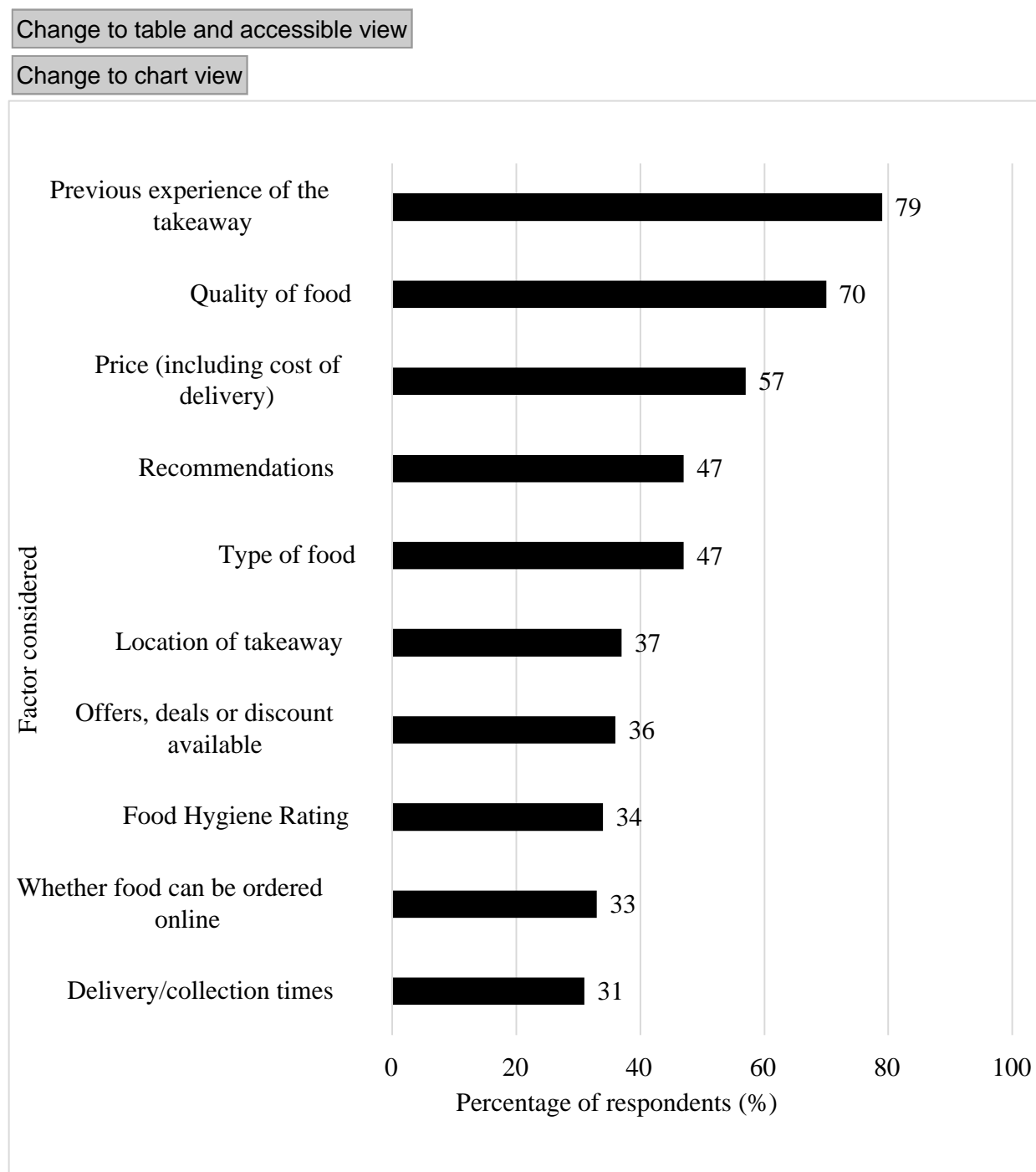
Source: Food and You 2: Wave 8

Those who eat out were most likely to consider the quality of food (83%) and their previous experience of the place (80%) when deciding where to eat. Around 4 in 10 (41%) respondents considered the food hygiene rating when deciding where to eat out (Figure 14). [\(footnote 6\)](#) [\(footnote 7\)](#)

Factors considered when ordering takeaways

Respondents were asked which factors, from a given list, they generally considered when deciding where to order a takeaway from [\(footnote 8\)](#).

Figure 15. Factors considered when ordering a takeaway.



Factors considered	Percentage of respondents (%)
Delivery/collection times	31
Whether food can be ordered online	33
Food Hygiene Rating	34
Offers, deals or discount available	36
Location of takeaway	37
Type of food	47
Recommendations	47
Price (including cost of delivery)	57
Quality of food	70
Previous experience of the takeaway	79

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Source: Food and You 2: Wave 8

Those who order takeaways were most likely to consider their previous experience of the takeaway (79%) and the quality of food (70%) when deciding where to order a takeaway from. Around a third (34%) of respondents considered the food hygiene rating when deciding where to order a takeaway from (Figure 15) [\(footnote 9\)](#).

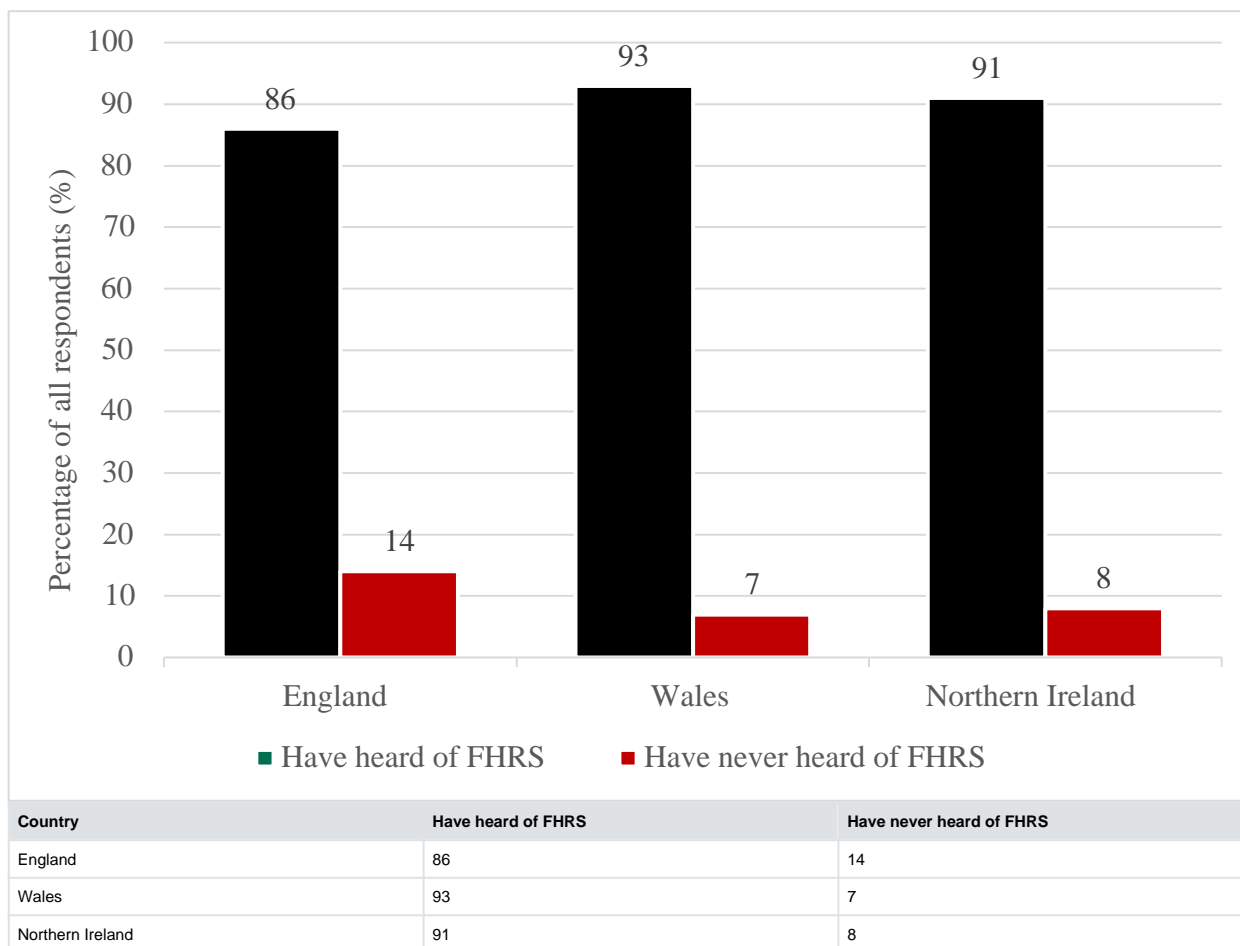
Awareness and recognition of the FHRS

Most respondents (86%) reported that they had heard of the FHRS. Around 6 in 10 (57%) respondents reported that they had heard of the FHRS and had at least a bit of knowledge about it [\(footnote 10\)](#), [\(footnote 11\)](#).

Figure 16. Percentage of respondents who had heard of the FHRS by country.

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Source: Food and You 2: Wave 8

Most respondents living in England (86%), Wales (93%), and Northern Ireland (91%) had heard of the FHRs (Figure 16)**.

Respondents in Wales (74%) and Northern Ireland (66%) were more likely to report that they had heard of the FHRs and had at least a bit of knowledge of the FHRs compared to those in England (56%).

When shown an image of the food hygiene rating sticker, 89% of respondents reported that they had seen the food hygiene rating sticker before. Recognition of the food hygiene rating sticker was slightly higher in Wales (95%) and Northern Ireland (94%) than in England (89%) [\(footnote 12\)](#) [\(footnote 13\)](#)**.

FHRs usage

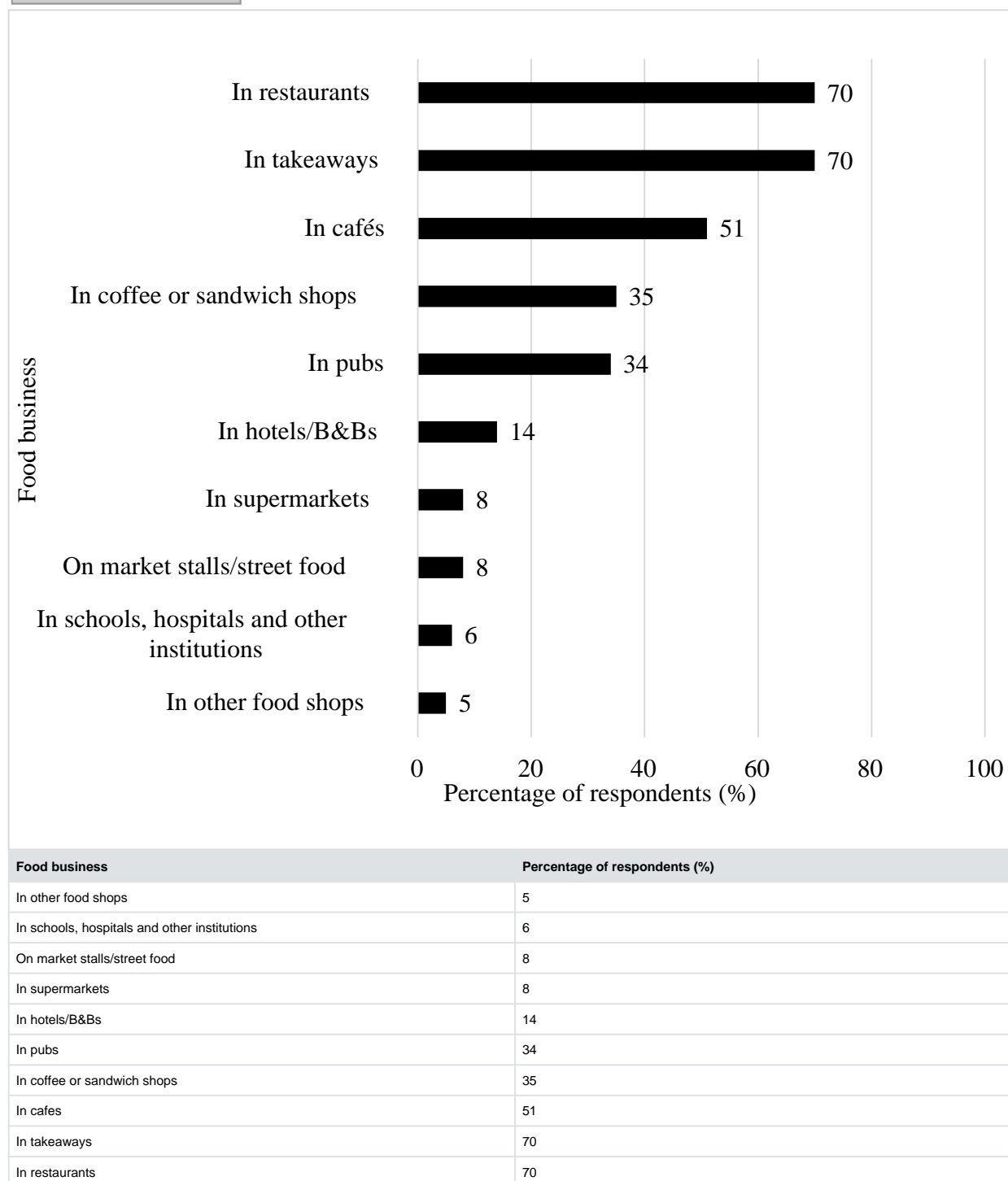
Respondents were asked if they had checked the hygiene rating of a food business in the last 12 months. Around 4 in 10 (42%) respondents reported checking the food hygiene rating of a business in the previous 12 months [\(footnote 14\)](#).

Respondents living in Wales (58%) were more likely to have checked the hygiene rating of a food business in the last 12 months compared to respondents in England (41%) and Northern Ireland (49%)**.

Figure 17. Food businesses where respondents had checked the food hygiene rating in last 12 months.

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Respondents who said they had checked the hygiene rating of a food business in the last 12 months were asked what types of food businesses they had checked. The most common types of food business respondents had checked the food rating of were restaurants (70%) and takeaways (70%). Respondents were less likely to report checking the food hygiene rating of cafés (51%), coffee or sandwich shops (35%), or pubs (34%) (Figure 17) ([footnote 15](#)).

1. Legislation for the mandatory display of FHRs ratings was introduced in November 2013 in Wales and October 2016 in Northern Ireland.
2. Question: In the last 4 weeks, have you eaten food... ? (Select all the apply) Responses: Ordered a takeaway directly from a takeaway shop or restaurant, From a café, coffee shop or sandwich shop (either to eat in or take out), Ordered a takeaway from an online food delivery company (for example Just Eat, Deliveroo, Uber Eats), From a fast food outlet (either to eat in or take out), In a restaurant, In a pub/ bar, From a canteen (for example at work, school, university, or hospital), From a mobile food van or stall, In a hotel, B&B or guesthouse, From an entertainment venue (for example cinema, bowling alley, sports club), From a food-sharing app (for example Olio or Too Good To Go), From Facebook Marketplace (for example pre-prepared food or meals), None of these. Base= 4966, all online respondents and those answering the 'Eating Out' postal questionnaire (see Annex A). Please note, percentages shown do not add up to 100% as multiple responses could be selected.
3. [NS-SEC](#) (The National Statistics Socio-economic classification) is a classification system which provides an indication of socio-economic position based on occupation and employment status.
4. Please note: the figures of other ethnic groups are not reported due to low base / sample size.
5. Question: At the moment, how often, if at all, do you eat out or buy food to take out for...? A) Breakfast, B) Lunch, C) Dinner. Responses: Several times a week, About once a week, About 2-3 times a month, About once a month, Less than once a month, Never, Can't remember. Base= 3915, all online respondents and those answering the 'Eating Out' postal questionnaire.
6. Please note: Figure 14 was amended in November 2024 to include a missing variable "Offers, deals or discount available (43%)" which was previous omitted from the figure.
7. Question: Generally, when you eat out, what do you consider when deciding where to go? Please think about eating out in restaurants, pubs/bars, and cafés/coffee shops/sandwich shops? Responses: Quality of food, My previous experience of the place, Price, Location, Recommendations from family or friends, Cleanliness of the place, Quality of service, Type of food (e. g. cuisine or vegetarian/vegan options), Ambiance/atmosphere, Food Hygiene Rating, Offers, deals or discount available, Reviews, e. g. on TripAdvisor, Google or social media, or in newspapers and magazines, Whether it is an independent business or part of a chain, Whether healthier options are available, Whether the place is child-friendly, Whether allergen information is provided, Whether information about calories is provided,

None of these, Don't know. Base= 3819, all online respondents who eat out.

8. Including takeaway ordered directly from a takeaway shop or restaurant or via an online food delivery company.
9. Question: Generally, when ordering food from takeaways (either directly from a takeaway shop or restaurant or from an online food delivery company like Just Eat, Uber Eats or Deliveroo) what do you consider when deciding where to order from? Responses: My previous experience of the takeaway, Quality of food, Price (including cost of delivery), Type of food (for example cuisine or vegetarian/vegan options), Recommendations from family or friends, Food Hygiene Rating, Location of takeaway, Whether there is a delivery or collection option, Offers, deals or discount available, Delivery/ collection times, Whether food can be ordered online for example through a website or app, Reviews for example on TripAdvisor, Google, social media, or in newspapers and magazines, Whether it is an independent business or part of a chain, Whether healthier options are provided, Whether allergen information is provided, Whether information about calories is provided, None of these, Don't know. Base= 3307, all online respondents who order takeaways.
10. Question: Have you heard of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme? Responses: Yes, I've heard of it and know quite a lot about it, Yes, I've heard of it and know a bit about it, Yes, I've heard of it but don't know much about it, Yes, I've heard of it but don't know anything about it, No, I've never heard of it. Base = 4966, all online respondents and those answering the 'Eating Out' postal questionnaire.
11. Responses to other FHRS questions not included in this report are available in the full dataset and tables. A more detailed FHRS report will be published separately.
12. Please note: This sentence was amended in November 2024 to clarify the differences between England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The sentence previously stated, "Recognition of the FHRS sticker was comparable across England (89%), Wales (95%) and Northern Ireland (94%)".
13. Question: Have you ever seen this sticker before? Responses: Yes, No, Don't know/ Not sure. Base = 4966, all online respondents and those answering the 'Eating Out' postal questionnaire.
14. Question: In the last 12 months, have you checked the hygiene rating of a food business? You may have checked a rating at the business premises, online, in leaflets or menus whether or not you decided to purchase food from there. Responses: Yes, I have checked the Food Hygiene Rating of a food business, No, I have not checked the Food Hygiene Rating of a food business, Don't know. Base = 4966, all online respondents and those answering the 'Eating Out' postal questionnaire.
15. Question: In which of the following kinds of food businesses have you checked the hygiene ratings in the last 12 months? Responses: In takeaways, In restaurants, In cafés, In coffee or sandwich shops, In pubs, In hotels & B&Bs, In supermarkets, In other food shops, In schools, hospitals and other institutions, On market stalls/street food, Manufacturers (Business-to-Business traders), Somewhere else, Don't know. Base = 2378, all online respondents and all those who completed the 'Eating Out' postal questionnaire who have

checked the Food Hygiene Rating of a food business in the last 12 months.