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# **Germany**

# **Exporter Guide**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

Germany has 82 million of the world's wealthiest consumers and is by far the biggest market in the European Union. The German market offers good opportunities for U.S. exporters of consumer-oriented agricultural products. In 2015, U.S. exports of agricultural products to Germany increased by over 4 percent reaching USD 2.6 billion. Largest segments were soybeans, tree nuts, Alaskan pollock, wine, beef, dried fruits, food preparations, sauces and other consumer- oriented products. This report provides U.S. food and agriculture exporters with background information and suggestions for entering the German market.

# Post: Berlin

Executive Summary: Section I. Market Overview

#### **Macro Economic Situation**

Germany has 82 million of the world's wealthiest consumers and is by far the most populous and economically powerful of the European Union's 28 member states. Germany's population continues to decline due to low birth rates and reduced immigration. It is estimated that 50 percent of its population will be older than 47 years old in 2025 and by 2060 the population will have decreased to about 65 million.

The German economy continued to experience positive development in 2015, despite the recent deterioration due to the current geopolitical uncertainties and the refugee crisis. With a total GDP of USD 3.4 trillion in 2015, Germany remains the largest economy in Western Europe. It posted an average annual growth rate of 2 percent during the period 2009-2015, outperforming the Western European average of 1 percent in constant terms during the same period. In 2015, German GDP grew by 1.7 percent compared to the previous year, reaching a GDP per capita of over USD 47,268 according to the World Bank.

In 2015, German imports of agricultural products (including forest products) totaled USD 97 billion. Although there was an overall 11 percent decline in total imports in 2015, U.S. exports to Germany increased by over 4 percent reaching USD 1.2 billion. The U.S. share of the German agricultural import market consists mostly of soybeans, almonds, walnuts, pistachios, Alaskan pollock, wine, beef, dried fruits, food preparations, sauces and other consumer-oriented products. Germany's main trading partners in the food sector are the other EU countries followed by Brazil, the United States, and China. In total, Germany is a net importer of food and feed. In the past ten years, food imports have steadily increased, underlying the rising demand for foreign as well as exotic foods. Somewhat declining import volumes in 2015, however, appear to be a result of consumers developing a different attitude to and awareness of food consumption, rather than economic factors; namely, they are willing to consume less.

#### **Section II. Exporter Business Tips**

The German market offers good opportunities for U.S. exporters of consumer-oriented agricultural products. U.S. suppliers of consumer-ready foods and beverages interested in developing a market for

their products in Germany must be prepared to:

- Offer a product that meets German/EU food law, packaging, and labeling requirements
- Pay particular attention to animal product health certificates, many of which are now filed using a new electronic system
- Watch out for potential testing for unapproved biotech crops (e.g., there is a zero tolerance for some U.S. corn varieties)
- Invest time and money to develop the market, paying special attention to identify the right marketing channel for your product -
- Seriously consider participating in food trade shows.
- Explore marketing approaches that build on strong societal themes
- Highlight your particular industry's 'sustainability'
- Consider including a certified organic item in your product line up

#### **Market Access**

If you are considering working through a distributor in another country (the Netherlands is common), you should be aware that food imports from other countries within the European Union fall under the "free movement of goods" principle. This means that products that are imported by other EU-countries may be brought into Germany even if they violate German food laws. If this is the case, importers must obtain a permit from the Federal Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) in order to sell the product in Germany.

To determine current tariffs and other measures applied to imports into Germany and the EU in general, please see the TARIC, the <u>Online Customs Tariff Database</u>.

There are a number of potential technical barriers to trade, thus exporters may want to consult with the <u>USDA/FAS Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards report on Germany</u>. This report provides an overview of food laws in force in Germany that cover areas which are not yet harmonized and provides a link to more general EU import requirements.

#### **Product Packaging**

Exporting companies from the United States should be aware that product packaging is very important to German consumers since they are highly environmentally conscious. Manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers must make sure that their packaging materials for their food products comply with EU and German domestic regulations in terms of recycling and disposal. The German packaging law requires manufacturers to take care of the recycling or disposal of any packaging material they sell. The German industry set up a dual system of <a href="waste collection">waste collection</a>, which picks up household packaging in conjunction with the existing municipal waste-collection systems. There are several dual system companies licensed in Germany offering various waste disposal schemes. U.S. exporters are free to choose which dual system they join. However, it is not mandatory to display any dual system membership seal on sales packaging.

#### **Distribution Channels**

The German food and beverage industry is highly fragmented and competitive. Few German retailers import products directly from other countries. Most food retailers prefer to buy from central buyers/distributors specialized in the import of food & beverages. In general, these wholesalers specialize in products or product groups and some are even experts in food products from a specific country of origin. These specialized importers have in-depth knowledge of all importing requirements, such as the necessary product certificates, labeling and packaging, and also take care of the shipping, customs clearance, warehousing and distribution of the products within the country. It is advisable that U.S. exporters find a local representative in order to place and promote their products successfully within Germany.

Another successful way of finding the right distribution for products of U.S. food and beverages companies is to participate in the various food trade fairs taking place in Germany. Trade shows like ANUGA or BioFach that take place in Germany enjoy an exceptional reputation among industry experts worldwide. Participating in trade shows facilitates the direct contact with German food brokers, importers, and wholesalers. A listing of upcoming trade shows in Germany may be found at: <a href="https://www.fas-europe.org/germany">www.fas-europe.org/germany</a>

Germany is a potential market for those U.S. companies willing to invest the time and resources to cement contacts. New products on the German market may require up to 12 to 18 months of testing in order to determine market acceptance.

# **Supporting Institutions**

Currently, about 40 U.S. organizations operate USDA-funded marketing programs in Germany. Participants include American Soybean Association, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Almond Board of California, California Walnut Commission, California Wine Institute, Cranberry Marketing Association, and U.S. Meat Export Federation.

For the full list of participating U.S. organizations, please visit <u>www.fas-europe.org/partners</u>

Foreign companies looking for German food importers, wholesalers, or distributors can obtain reliable information from the Foreign Agricultural Service based in Berlin (<u>FAS</u>), the Federation of German Food and Drink Industries (<u>BVE</u>), the Federal Association of the German Retail Grocery Trade (<u>BVL</u>) as well as at the different food market segments industry associations.

#### Section III. Market Sector Structure and Trends

#### **Food Retail**

With 80.6 million of the world's wealthiest consumers, Germany is by far the biggest market for food and beverages in the European Union. According to Euromonitor International, in 2015 grocery retailing has grown by 1 percent to nearly USD 216 billion. Part of the demand is met with domestic products; however, overall Germany is a net importer of all major categories of food products.

The German food market is heavily dependent on imports to meet its customer demands. Last year, Germany imported USD 55 billion in consumer-oriented agricultural products. Somewhat declining import volumes, however, appear to be a result of consumers developing a different attitude to and awareness of food consumption, rather than economic factors; namely, they are willing to consume less. By value, nearly one quarter of imported products came from the Netherlands. Italy (10 percent), Spain (9 percent) and France (8 percent) are the following major suppliers. After Switzerland and Turkey, the United States is the third largest non-EU supplier of consumer-oriented agricultural products. Although there was an overall 11 percent decline in imports in 2015, U.S. exports to Germany increased by over 5 percent to USD 1.2 billion. Main drivers for the increase were almonds, pistachios, walnuts and hazelnuts, as well as food enzymes, food preparations, dried prunes, cranberries and dried grapes including raisins. Other important products were wine, meat of bovine animals, sauces, cocoa and peanuts

Value of imports from Consumer Oriented and Fishery Products, billion USD

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Imports of Consumer Oriented Agric. Products	59.0	56.3	60.9	62.1	55.0
Imports from the U.S.	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2
Fishery products	5.2	4.8	5.2	5.7	4.8
Imports from the U.S.	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: Global Trade Atlas

Given the large size of the German market, the opportunities for business in the food sector are very attractive to U.S. exporters. Consolidation, market saturation, strong competition and low prices are key characteristics of the German retail food market. The sector is dominated by five large retail domestic companies. The major chains face slim margins due to fierce competition in the sector. However, in recent years, there has also been a trend in consumer preference toward smaller grocery formats, including convenience stores, small grocery retailers and independents.

German consumers expect high quality food products. However, they are very price-sensitive. Germans are devoted to their discounters and the country has, globally, the highest share of discounters in food retailing. This is one reason why margins at the retail level are so thin. A key factor in the future will be that Germany has one of the world's oldest populations. Food retailing in Germany will therefore face significant challenges due to changes in the demographic structure and consumer lifestyles. Demand for convenience, health, and wellness, as well as luxury products, will remain a consumer trend impacting food retailing into the future. Another trend is that German consumers take great pride in being "green" or environmentally friendly. Therefore, German consumers are willing to pay more for "sustainable," "locally sourced," "free range," "natural," "organic," "fair trade" and "carbon neutral" products.

For sustainability in particular, major retailers and producers are increasingly requiring private certification. Unilever, for example, has pledged to purchase 100 percent "sustainable" products by 2020 and is already making strong progress toward that goal. For U.S. products, there is room to use high health, safety and environmental standards governing production as a competitive advantage, but it is important that they 'have a story to tell' and are prepared to consider private sustainability certification.

The movement for organic food products has long since achieved mainstream status in Germany. More and more consumers are seeking to improve their sense of well-being, health, and even their performance levels, through the consumption of functional food products. An increasingly fast-paced society and the rising number of single households is driving demand for highly convenient foodstuffs including ready-to-eat meals, frozen foods, desserts, and baked goods. Other trends include sales of fair trade products, such as coffee and fruit juices.

For more information please see the FAS/USDA German Retail Foods report.

### **Selling direct**

Direct sales to Germany's leading retail companies are challenging; however, it can be a desirable product-entry approach for a U.S. supplier. Due to their wide range of distribution, central buyers are generally flooded with offers from competing suppliers and they are usually not interested in taking on the added responsibility of importing products directly. This is especially the case for new-to-market products, which may not comply with German/EU import requirements, food laws and packaging and labeling requirements. Retail buyers may only be interested in importing products directly if they are unique, possess some specific attribute, or offer significant advantages in terms of quality, price, or financial promotional support.

Each of Germany's leading retail groups has a different business structure, purchasing and distribution system. Many of the leading retailers have multiple retail chains, often with various types of retail formats such as large hypermarkets, discount and small neighborhood stores, or perhaps beverage and/or delicatessen outlets. Large retailers' purchasing departments may also be divided by retail format and, sometimes, by region of the country.

New products on the German market may require up to 12 to 18 months of testing in order to determine market acceptance. Listing fees, equivalent to several thousand dollars or more per product, are common and do not ensure shelf space if a profitable turnover is not achieved quickly. The exception may be a retailer's desire to maintain a competitive edge by keeping a full range of products.

#### Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Sector (HRI)

The German food service sector is large and highly fragmented, but can be divided into the commercial and institutional food service markets. The German commercial food service market includes hotels, restaurants, fast food and take-away outlets, bars, cafeterias, coffee shops, and similar channels. The institutional food service market is comprised of hospitals, universities, nursing homes, and cafeterias. Some key trends include sustainability, regional produce, convenience, health and wellness, Asian cuisine and retail catering.

Sales of consumer foodservice continued to be led by full service restaurants, which are dominated by independent restaurants. Compared with other countries, chains still have a very low presence but some are also becoming popular. International chains have a very strong position in fast food. The biggest players in the German food service market are McDonalds, Burger King, LSG, Tank & Rast, and Nordsee.

Purchasing by HRI is fragmented and competitive. Few of them import products directly from other countries, except for items that they purchase in large quantities. Most HRI companies would rather buy from central buyers or distributors importing food and beverages. In general, these wholesalers have specialized in products or product groups and some are even experts in food products from a specific country of origin. Thus, specialized importers have an in-depth knowledge of importing requirements, such as product certification, labeling and packaging. They also typically handle shipping, customs clearance, warehousing and distribution of products within the country. The two mayor distribution channels for the German food service trade are Cash & Carry Wholesalers and Specialized Distributor/Wholesalers.

Cash & Carry wholesalers operate large stores with food and non-food products. They sell to retailers, restaurants, and other food service operators. C&C stores offer a variety of products to competitive prices. They are not open to the average consumer. Specialized distributors to the food service sector have dry and cold storage facilities with refrigerated/frozen trucks for deliveries. They buy from processing companies, importers and occasionally, foreign exporters. To cover the entire German food service market, regional distributors have organized in groups, such as Intergast and Service Bund. Some of those distributors organize in-house food shows once or twice a year where their suppliers can demonstrate their products to potential customers. This is an excellent opportunity for U.S. suppliers of products ready to enter the German food service market.

For more information please see the latest <u>FAS/USDA Food Service – Hotel Restaurant Institutional</u> report for Germany.

#### **Key Influences on Consumer Demands in Germany**

- Declining population with a birth rate of 1,43 babies born per woman of childbearing age
- Aging population
- Number of households growing
- Smaller households
- Rise in number of working women
- International consumer tastes e.g. Chinese, Indian, Italian, Thai, Mexican, American
- Reduction in formal meal occasions, leading to an increase in snacking
- Healthier eating habits
- Sustainability is the trend meeting consumer concerns about environment, obesity, safety of the food supply

# Advantages and Challenges of the German Food Retail Market

Sector Strength & Market Opportunities	Sector Weaknesses & Competitive Threats
Germany is the biggest market in Europe with one	German consumers demand quality and low
of the highest income levels in the world	prices
Many German consumers are uninformed about the	No unified U.S. sustainability message in the
details of sustainability and there is yet room to	German market_
define a U.S. sustainability message	

Germany is among the largest food importing nations in the world	EU import regulation and tariffs. EU gives preferential access to products from EU countries
Opportunities for healthy food products not sufficiently available on the local European market	Very competitive market with low growth in retail sales besides organic
Equivalency agreement on organics offers ample opportunities	Listing fees paid to retailers and money spent on creating brand awareness hamper the introduction of new U.S. brands
Germany has many, well established importers.  Distribution system is well developed	Margins on food at retail level are very thin
U.S. style is popular, especially among the younger generation	Retailers rarely import products into Germany on their own
The size of the EU import quota for beef is rising to 48,200 tons and Germany is the largest EU market Good reputation for U.S. food like dried fruits, seafood, wine	The quota only applies to beef from animals not treated with growth-promoting hormones
Large non-German population and German's inclination to travel abroad help fuel demand for foreign products	

## **Section IV. Best High-Value Product Prospects**

U.S. products with the best export opportunities in the German market meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The basic product is not produced in Europe in sufficient quantities or the American quality is superior
- The product (usually fresh) is available on a counter seasonal basis
- The product is unique to the United States

# The following products from the United States have good potential in Germany:

Product Category (in USD million)	Total German Imports 2015	German Imports from the U.S. 2015	U.S. Import Growth (2010- 15)*	Market attractiveness for USA
Tree Nuts	2,907	799	+40%	The United States is the biggest supplier of tree nuts to Germany. Most tree nuts are used as ingredients by the food

Fish and Seafood Products	4,841	182	-5.8%	processing sector. Almonds are the most important commodity within this category. Further products with good sales potential include pistachios, pecans and walnuts.  The German market offers lucrative opportunities for fish and seafood products. Fish consumption is growing as consumers associate fishery products with a healthy diet. Best prospects for U.S. and seafood exports are salmon, shrimps, crabs, caviar substitutes, cuttle fish and squid, sea urchins catfish and
Wine and Beer	3,290	96	-8.6%	scallops.  Germany has a high share of domestic wine production. However, good prospects exist for "new world wines" including those from the United States.  U.S. beer has also steadily increased exports to Germany.
Processed Fruits and Vegetables	5,526	89	-5.3%	German imports are slowly increasing. Those products are mostly used as ingredients by the food processing sector for the production of pastries and cereals. Dried fruits and prepared nuts are also popular as a snack. Commodities with notable increasing sales are dried grapes (including raisins), dried prunes, dried onions and dried mushrooms & truffles.
Red Meats Fresh/Chilled/ Frozen	4,292	39	-43%	Good opportunities for U.S. high quality beef produced without growth hormones. The EU quota size and administration system have recently seen changes.
Snack Foods (excl. Nuts)	3,511	8.4	+6.3%	German demand for healthy, organic, innovative, and exotic snacks continues to grow. U.S. import growth has expanded in this category predominately due to increasing imports of cocoa preparations and chocolate.
Pet Foods (Dog and Cat)	976,1	1.9	+18%	Sales of cat food have the biggest market share. U.S. exports are declining but potential exists for premium pet food.

Source: Global Trade Atlas, \* values are subject to year-to-year exchange rate

#### Category A: Products Present in the Market That Have Good Sales Potential

- Tree nuts
- Wine
- Processed fruits and vegetables
- Fruit juices
- Snack foods
- Health food, organic food, sustainable food products
- Dried fruits

#### Category B: Products Not Present In Significant Quantities but Which Have Good Sales Potential

- High quality beef (produced without promotions)
- Cranberries and cranberry products
- Seafood and seafood products
- Game and exotic meat
- Innovative sauces, condiments and confectionery products
- Products featuring 'sustainable' or other social issue-based marketing theme
- Sweet potatoes

# Category C: Products Not Present Because They Face Significant Barriers

- Poultry (non-tariff barrier)
- Processed food with GMO ingredients, bleached flour

# Competition for U.S. exports

Product category Total Import in million US\$, 2015	Main suppliers in percentage, 2015	Strengths of Key supply countries	Advantages and Disadvantages of Local Suppliers
Breakfast Cereals Imports: 141,937 tons Value: US\$ 281 million	1. Belgium - 15.4% 2. France - 14.7% 3. Poland - 12.4% 17. U.S 0.2%	Distance, availability and regional products	Developed processed food industry
Snack Foods (Excl. nuts) Imports: 822,612 tons Value: US\$ 3,512 million	1. Belgium - 18.2% 2. Netherlands - 17.5% 3. Poland - 13.8% 22. U.S 0.2%	Distance, availability and regional products	Developed confectionery industry
HS 02: Meat	1. Netherlands –	Distance and	Focus on dairy production

Imports:	25.8%	availability	instead of beef production.
2,445,787 tons	2. Belgium -	avanaomity	Genetics need improvement
Value:	12.0%		Genetics need improvement
US\$ 6,681 million	3. Denmark –		
ουφ 0,001 mmnon	9.4%		
	16. U.S 0.6%		
HS 03: Fish and	1. Poland -	1,2: Distance and	Tradition in seafood trading
Crustaceans	18.9%	availability	and processing, fish is
Imports:	2. Denmark –	3: Price/quality ratio	popular
835,774 tons	13.4%	3. Trice, quanty ratio	popular
Value:	3. Netherlands -		
US\$ 3,984 million	12.2%		
ουφ 3,704 mmnon	6. U.S 4.2%		
HS 04: Dairy	1. Netherlands –	Proximity	Great tradition of milk and
Produce; Birds Eggs	30.4%	Toximity	milk based products
and Natural Honey	2. France -		products
Imports:	14.0%		
n.a	3. Austria –		
Value: US\$ 7,659	8.3%		
million	34. U.S 0.11%		
HS 07: Edible	1. Netherlands –	1: Proximity	Products not sufficiently
vegetables	37.2%	2,3: Tradition,	available on local market
Imports:	2. Spain - 24.5%	different climate/	avanable on local market
4,837,005 tons	2. Spain - 24.5% 3. Italy - 8.1%	supply/ taste/	
Value:	20. U.S 0.2%	varieties	
US\$ 6,145 million	20. 0.3 0.270	varieties	
HS 08: Edible Fruits	1. Spain – 20.5%	1,3: Tradition,	Products not sufficiently
and Nuts	2. Netherlands –	different climate/	available on local market
Imports:	18.5%	supply/ taste/	avanable on local market
6,294,157 tons	3. Italy – 11.3%	varieties	
Value:	4. U.S. – 8.4%	2: Proximity	
US\$ 10,122 million	1. C.B. 0.170	2. 1 Toximity	
HS 09: Coffee, Tea,	1. Brazil –	Trading tradition	Domestic availability is
Mate and Spices	25.4%	Trading tradition	scarce, re-export
Imports:	23.4% 2. Vietnam –		source, to export
1,352,555 tons	11.3%		
Value:	3. Honduras -		
US\$ 4,641 million	7.0%		
	35. U.S 0.2%		
HS 16: Edible	1. Netherlands –	1,2: Proximity	Not sufficiently domestically
Preparations of Meat	20.8%	3: Price/quality ratio	available
Fish, Crustaceans	2. Austria –	2. I IIO quality Iuilo	a · airaoic
Imports:	9.7%		
638,128 tons	3. Italy – 9.7%		
Value:	20. U.S. – 1.0%		
US\$ 2,665 million	20. 0.5. 1.0/0		
05ψ 2,005 IIIIIIOII			

HS 19: Preparation	1. Italy – 18.2%	Proximity and re-	Not sufficiently domestically
off Cereals, Flour,	2. Poland –	export	available
Starch or Milk	12.8%		
Imports:	3. France –		
1,844,939 tons	12.5%		
Value:	26. U.S. – 0.2%		
US\$ 4,187 million			
HS 20: Preparations	1. Netherlands –	Proximity	Not sufficiently domestically
of Vegetables, fruits,	25.0%		available
Nuts	2. Italy - 12.6%		
Imports:	3. Turkey –		
3,390,346 tons	12.4%		
Value:	21. U.S. – 0.5%		
US\$ 5,176 million			
HS 21: Miscellaneous	1. Netherlands -	Proximity and re-	Not sufficiently domestically
Edible Preparations	20.7%	export	available
Imports:	2. France -9.6%		
n.a.	3. Belgium –		
Value:	9.0%		
US\$ 3,207 million	13. U.S. – 1.7%		
HS 22: Beverages,	1. France –	Excellent regional	Not sufficiently domestically
Spirits, Wine and	19.4%	products	available
Vinegar	2. Italy – 19.4%		
Imports:	3. Spain – 8.2%		
n.a.	8. U.S. – 5.2%		
Value:			
US\$ 7,162 million			

Source: Global Trade Atlas

#### Section V.

## **Key Contacts and Further Information**

Participating or simply attending a trade show can be a very cost-effective way to test the German market, to introduce a product, or to expand sales. Germany offers a wide variety of trade show venues for food and beverage products. Trade shows like ANUGA, Fruit Logistica or the BioFach show in Germany enjoy an exceptional reputation within the global food industry and these shows outreach is, in many cases, global. U.S. exporters should consider participating or visiting the upcoming trade shows in 2017:

Trade Show	Information
Heimtextil	World's biggest trade fair for home and
January 10-13, 2017	commercially used textiles

http://heimtextil.messefrankfurt.com	
IPM – International Plant Show	European trade fair for the horticultural and
January 24-27, 2017	nursery industry
http://www.ipm-essen.de/	
ISM (International Sweets and Biscuit Show)	World's largest show for snacks and
January 29-February 2, 2017	confectionery products
www.ism-cologne.com	
Fruit Logistica, February 8-10, 2017	World's leading trade fair for the fresh fruit
www.fruitlogistica.com	and vegetable business
<b>BIOFACH,</b> February 15-18, 2017	Leading European tradeshow for organic
www.biofach.com	food and non-food products
Internorga, March 17-21, 2017	International tradeshow for hotel, restaurant,
www.internorga.com	catering, baking, and confectionery trades
<b>ProWein</b> , March 19-21, 2017	International trade show for wine and spirits
www.prowein.com	
Equitana (every two years)	Leading European tradeshow for the
March 18-26, 2017	equestrian market
http://www.equitana.com	
ANUGA (every two years)	One of the leading food fairs for the retail
October 7-11, 2017	trade, and the food service, and catering
www.anuga.com	market
Food Ingredients Europe	One of the world's leading events in the food
November 28-30, 2017	and beverage ingredients industry
www.figlobal.com/fieurope/	
Interzoo (every two years)	Leading trade show for pet food and
May 8-11, 2018	supplies
www.interzoo.com	

More information about these and other German exhibitions and trade shows can be found under the following Internet address: <a href="https://www.auma-messen.de">www.auma-messen.de</a>.

Homepages of potential interest to the U.S. food and beverage exporters are listed below:

Foreign Agricultural Service Berlin	http://germany.usembassy.gov/fas
Foreign Agricultural Service Washington	http:// <u>www.fas.usda.gov</u>
USDA/FAS/Europe	http://www.fas-europe.org
U.S. Mission to the European Union	http://www.usda-eu.org
European Importer Directory	http://www.american-foods.org/

One tip for U.S. exporters is to access the German business portal, which is maintained by the Ministry of Economics and Technology. Provided in English, it serves as a central contact platform that can steer inquiries into the right channel. More information about the food and beverage sector can be found here:

http://www.ixpos.de/IXPOS/Navigation/EN/Your-business-in-germany/Business-sectors/Consumer-

#### goods/food-and-beverage.html

If you have questions or comments regarding this report, or need assistance exporting to Germany, please contact the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service Office in Berlin at the following address:

Foreign Agricultural Service U.S. Department of Agriculture Embassy of United States of America Clayallee 170 14195 Berlin

Tel: (49) (30) 8305 – 1150 E-Mail: <u>AgBerlin@fas.usda.gov</u> Homepage: <u>www.fas-europe.org</u>

Please view our <u>Home Page</u> for more information on exporting U.S. food and beverage products to Germany, including market and product "briefs" available on specific topics of interest to U.S. exporters. Importer listings are available from the Foreign Agricultural Service for use by U.S. exporters of U.S. food and beverage products.

Recent <u>reports</u> of interests to U.S. exporters interested in the German Market include:

Report Title	Month report was published	Report	number
Organic Food Retail	January 2016	GM15001	
FAIRS Report	February 2016	GM15006	
Stone Fruit Report	July 2016	GM14030	
Food Service – Hotel Restaurant Insti	itutional November 2016	GM16019	
Food Processing Ingredients	November 2016	GM16016	
Biotech Annual	November 2016	GM16011	
Retail Foods	December 2016	GM16029	