



The Food and beverage industry in Italy

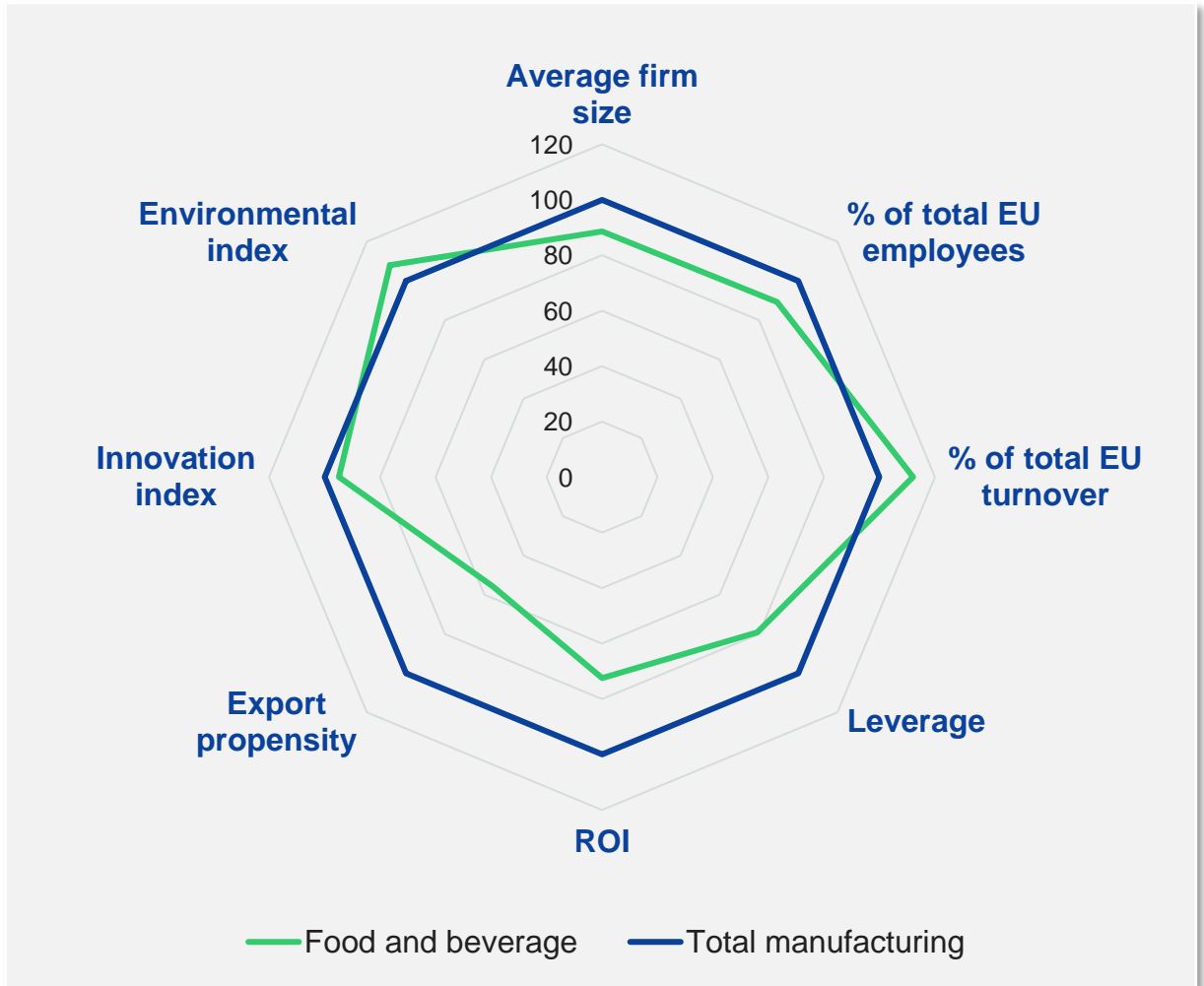
Sector Kit 2024





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Overview



Source: Eurostat, Prometeia

Key Insights

- The **Italian Food and beverage sector is a well-established industry**, contributing a larger share to the total European Union industry turnover compared to the manufacturing sector average.
- Furthermore, the industry is **closely aligned** with the benchmark **in terms of workforce employment, innovation index, and average firm size**.
- The sector demonstrates **a good performance in the considered sustainability index**, indicating that it may not require significant investment to transition towards a green economy.

Number of firms and sector characteristics

Year 2022		Number of enterprises	Turnover million €	Number of employees
Food and beverage	Value	53 443	174 607	434 604
	% on total manufacturing	14.5%	12.9%	11.3%

Breakdown by subsector

Food	Value	50 019	151 260	396 059
	% on total sector	93.6%	86.6%	91.1%
Beverage	Value	3 424	23 346	38 545
	% on total sector	6.4%	13.4%	8.9%

Breakdown by firm size class¹

Micro	Value	46 506	17 865	156 134
	% on total sector	87.0%	10.2%	35.9%
Small	Value	4 836	19 557	78 990
	% on total sector	9.0%	11.2%	18.2%
Medium	Value	1 494	33 454	66 015
	% on total sector	2.8%	19.2%	15.2%
Large	Value	607	103 730	133 466
	% on total sector	1.1%	59.4%	30.7%

Source: Prometeia Structural Database

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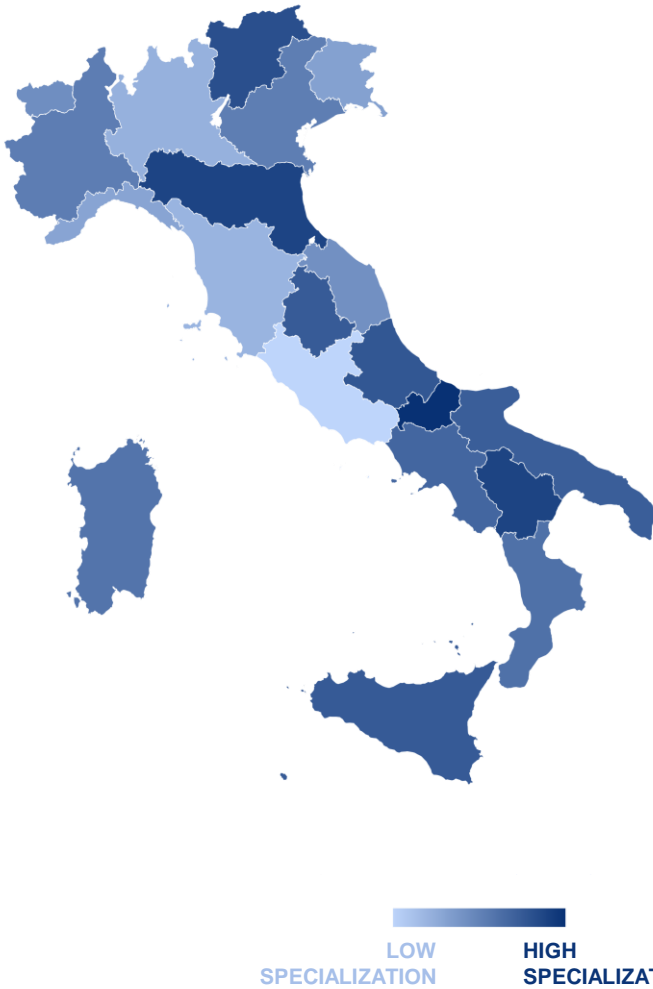
Key Insights

- With **over 53 thousand enterprises, more than 434 thousand employees, and a turnover exceeding 174 million euros**, the Food and beverage industry is a leading sector within the Italian economy.
- In terms of turnover, the **industry accounts for nearly 13% of the total manufacturing production value** in Italy. This share further increases to 14.5% when considering the number of enterprises.
- The sector – similarly to the entire manufacturing industry - is predominantly characterized by **small and medium-sized enterprises**. However, large enterprises contribute to almost 60% of the industry's production value.

1. As a reference, manufacturing in Italy has the following structure:

- Number of enterprises: Mic. 84.9%, Sm. 10.8%, Med. 3.3%, Large 1%
- Turnover: Micro 8.6%, Small 12.4%, Medium 18.7%, Large 60.3%
- Number of employees: Mic. 26.7%, Sm. 21.7%, Med. 19.7%, L. 31.9%

Specialized districts or regions



Top 5 region by specialization, 2021	Specializ. Index ¹
Molise	1.6
Basilicata	1.5
Emilia-Romagna	1.5
Trentino Alto Adige	1.4
Abruzzo	1.3

Top 5 region by number of empl., 2021	Number of employees
Lombardia	72 701
Emilia-Romagna	62 112
Veneto	49 515
Piemonte	38 548
Campania	38 512

Source: Istat

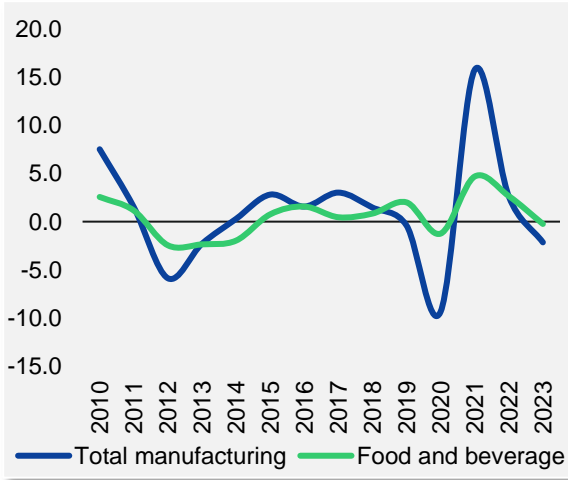
Key Insights

- The region with the **highest degree of specialization in the Food and beverage sector is Molise**, with a specialization index of 1.6. **Emilia-Romagna** also exhibits a significant degree of specialization, with an index of approximately 1.5, and ranks as the **second region in Italy in terms of the number of workers** employed in the industry.
- The region with the **highest number of employees** in this industry is **Lombardia**, employing over 72 thousand workers, also thanks to the **dairy products industrial district** located in the Southern part of the region. Veneto, which ranks third for employees, also boasts an impressive **industrial district for meat products in Verona**.

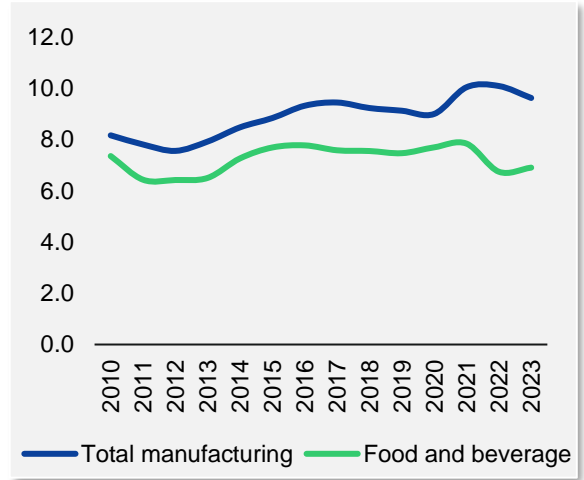
1. Here, the Specialization Index is calculated as the ratio between a region's sector-specific number of employees as a percentage of total regional number of employees and the same ratio at the national level. A region is considered specialized when the index value exceeds 1.

Industry financials

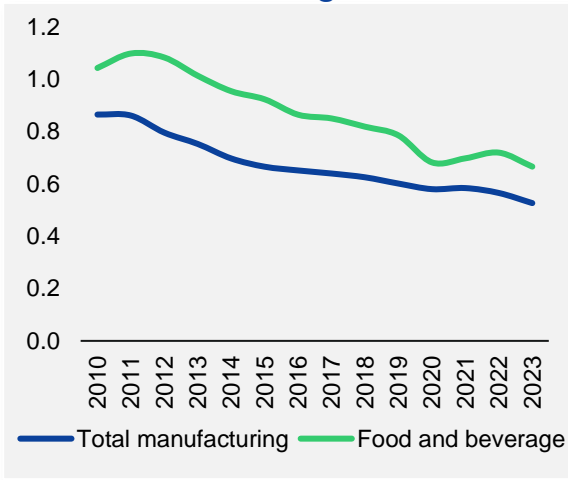
Turnover (Constant Prices, YoY change %)



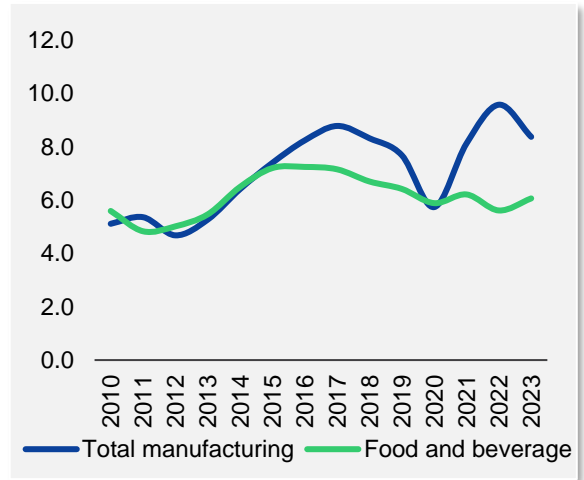
EBITDA



Leverage



ROI

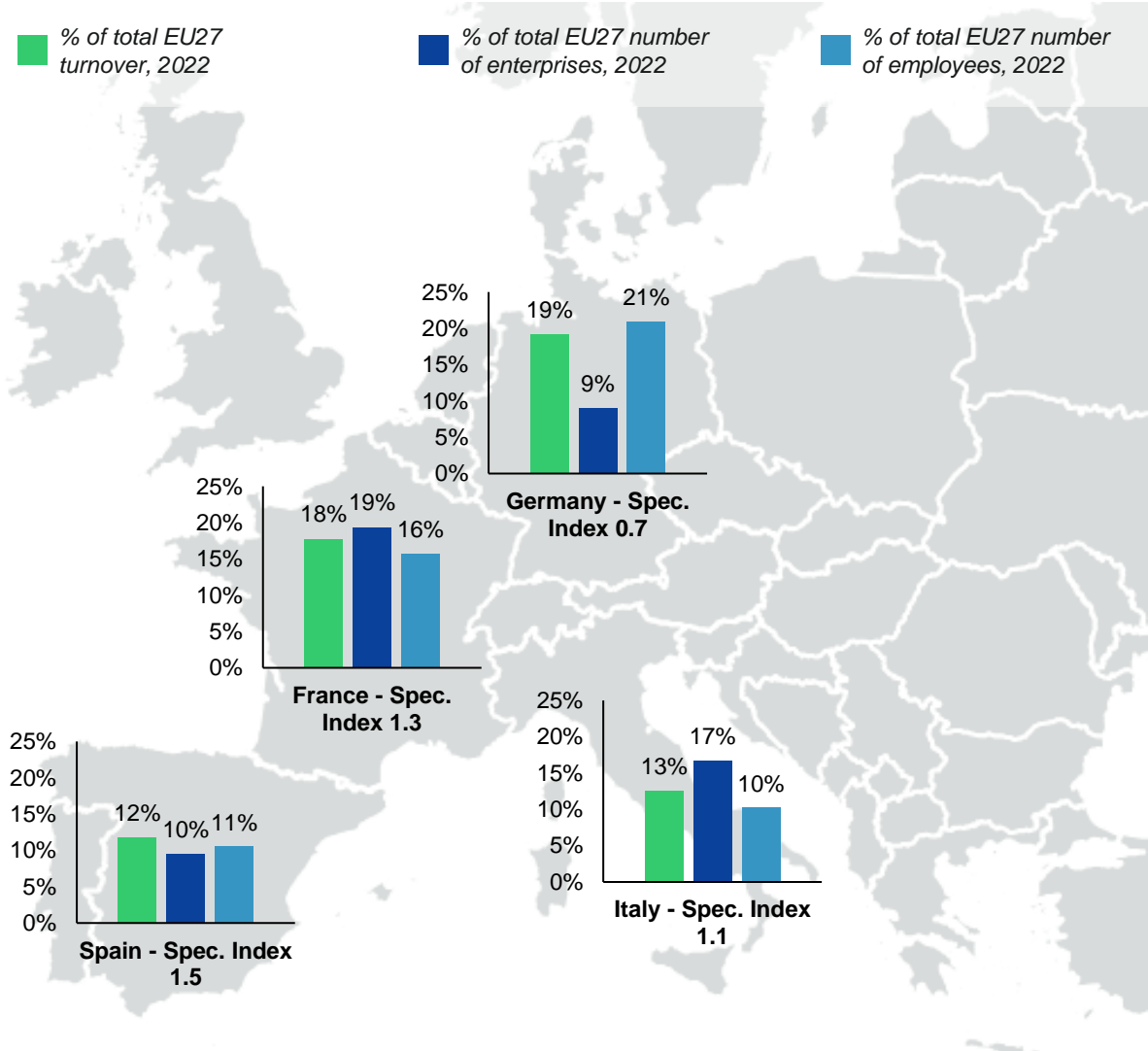


Source: Prometeia Financials Database

Key Insights

- Historically, the Food and beverage industry has demonstrated **notable stability** in comparison to the broader manufacturing sector. During the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the industry experienced only a **modest decline**, with a subsequent **swift and robust recovery in 2021**.
- Profit margins** within the sector **declined in 2022**, **stabilizing** at 6.9% in **2023**. Similarly, the Return on Investment (**ROI**) has followed a **comparable trend**, with an estimated value of 6.1% in 2023.
- Over the years, the **financial stability** of firms in this industry has **progressively improved**, as reflected by the leverage ratio. Nevertheless, this stability remains slightly lower than that observed in the manufacturing sector.

International benchmarking



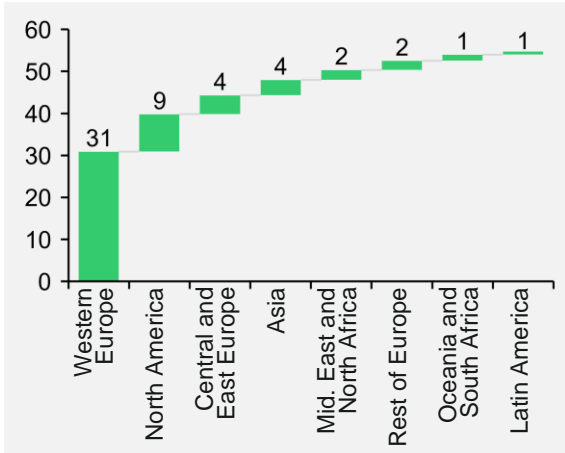
Source: Eurostat, Prometeia Structural Database

Key Insights

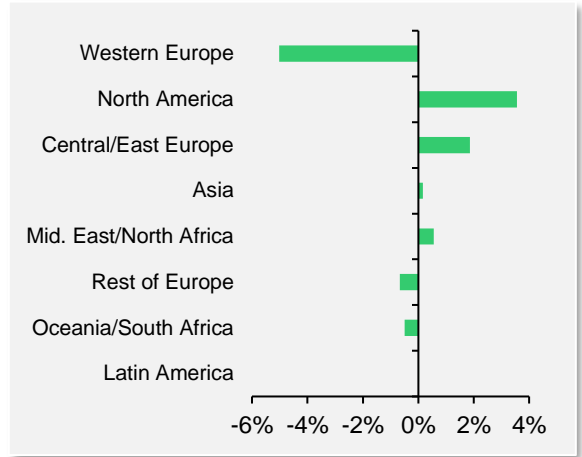
- The Italian Food and beverage industry holds a **significant position at the European level**, ranking within the top five among EU27 countries across all categories, including employees, enterprises, and turnover.
- With over 53,000 enterprises, **Italy ranks as the second-highest country in Europe regarding the number of active firms** in this sector, accounting for approximately 17% of the total number of Food and beverage firms in the EU27.
- The **country's specialization index**, which stands at 1.1, indicates a notable specialization in the Food and beverage sector.

International trade

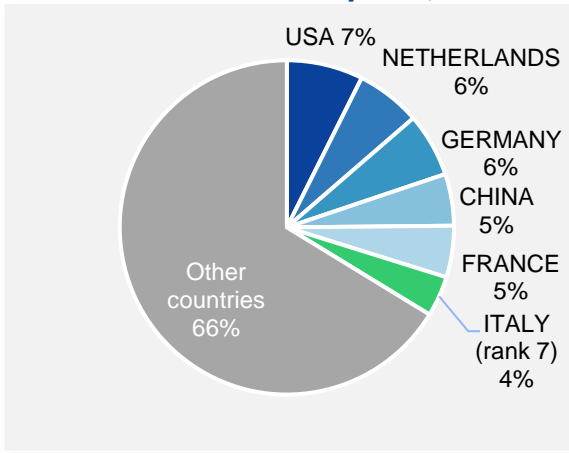
Italian export by area of destination
Bln \$, 2022



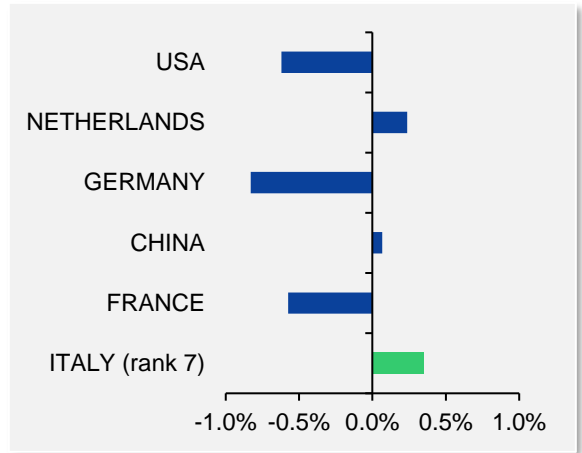
Italian export by area of destination
Var 2013-2022 of the share



World main exporters
% on total world exports, 2022



World main exporters
Var 2013-2022 of the share



Source: Prometeia Fipice Database

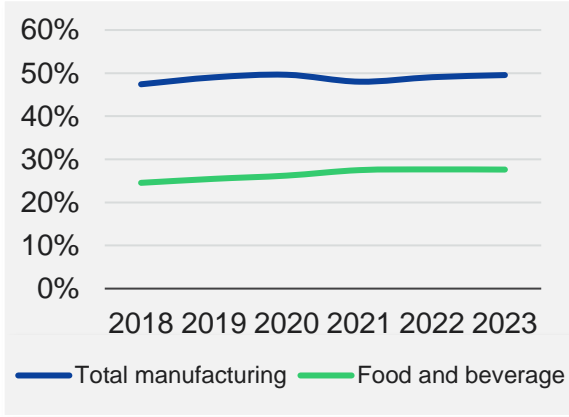
Key Insights

- The **largest share** of Food and beverage industry exports from Italy is directed **towards Western Europe**. However, the share of exports to this region has declined over the past decade.
- Conversely, the market share in **North America** has **increased** since 2013, establishing it as the **second-largest destination** for Italian Food and beverage exports.
- **Italy ranks seventh among the world top exporters** in this industry, with a 4% share of total exports in 2022, and marginally gaining ground in the last ten years (+0.3% export share with respect to 2013).

Competitive advantages of Italian firms

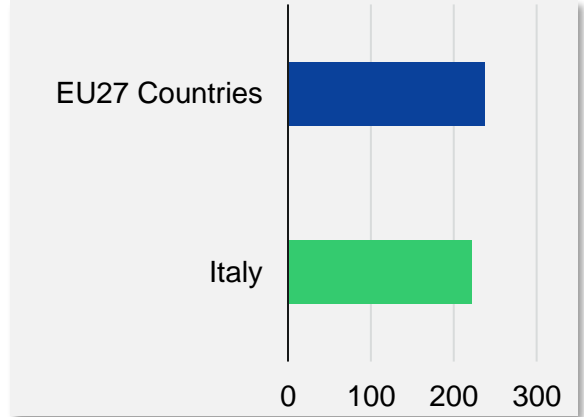
Export propensity

(ratio between exports and production value)



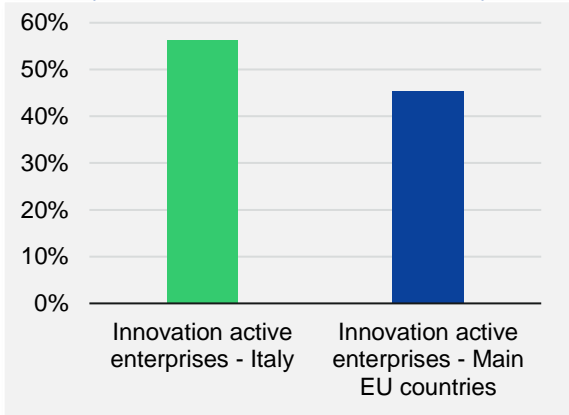
Emission intensity

(GHG grams per € of value added)



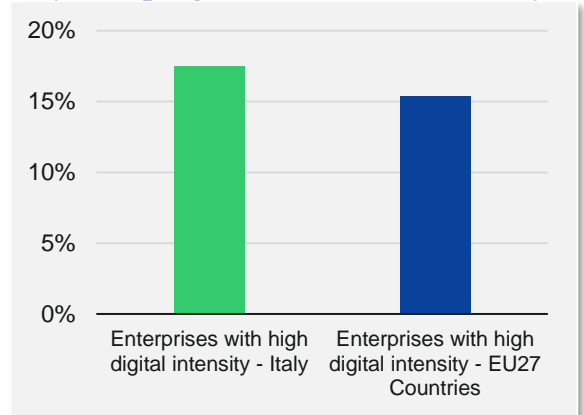
Innovation propensity

(% of innovative firms on the total)



Digital intensity

(% of digitally advanced firms on the total)



Source: Eurostat, Prometeia Economics Database
Data on emission and digital intensity also include sector C12

Key Insights

- The Food and beverage industry exhibits a relatively **low export propensity**. However, recent trends indicate promising growth: over time, the export propensity of firms in this sector has increased from 24.6% to 27.6%.
- The industry has demonstrated a **growing commitment to innovation**. In Italy, more than 56% of enterprises are classified as innovation-active, surpassing the 45% average observed in major EU countries. Also, the proportion of firms with **high digital intensity** is **above the EU27 average**.
- Finally, the emissions of **greenhouse gases** generated by the sector activities are relatively **lower compared to the European peers**.

Notes

Industry definition

- The analysis encompasses activities classified under NACE Rev.2 codes C10-C11.

Data sources

- Information on the industry structure, characteristics, trade data, and financials are sourced from official statistics (Eurostat, ISTAT) and Prometeia Databases (Structural, Financials, Economics, Fipice).
- Financial data for the year 2023 are estimates based on currently available information.

Overview

- The radar chart on page 3 illustrates the industry's positioning relative to the entire Italian manufacturing sector across various indicators. The manufacturing index is standardized to 100, and the index value for the specific sector indicates its performance against this benchmark. An upper limit of 200 is set to facilitate graphical representation.

International Benchmarking

- The charts on page 7 present data for the top four countries in the European Union by sector turnover.
- Some EU countries do not provide complete information; however, this limitation is confined to smaller countries and does not affect the reported rankings.

Competitive advantages of Italian firms

- *Export propensity* is calculated as the ratio of export value to production value within the sector.
- *Innovation propensity* is an index representing the percentage of “innovation-active enterprises” over the total number of respondents to the Eurostat Community Innovation Survey (CIS), referring to 2020.
- The *Digital Intensity Index (DII)* is a composite indicator, derived from the survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises. Here, the share of enterprises with high or very high digital intensity as of 2023 is represented.
- *Emission intensity* is calculated as the ratio between GHG emissions of the sector in grams and the industry's production value (or gross value added, depending on the most relevant indicator) at current prices, based on data from 2021.

