

PRESS RELEASE

EU CONTAINER GLASS INDUSTRY RECORDS HIGHEST EVER GROWTH IN PRODUCTION

New 2021 data points to highest production growth ever recorded for food and beverage glass packaging. Despite increasing challenges in crisis times, glass industry remains resilient in face of exceptionally high market demand.

Brussels, 04 JULY 2022 – New 2021 industry data released today points to strong growth in container glass production in Europe and demonstrates that the sector continues its recovery from a 2020 decline. Industry production volume of glass packaging for the food and beverage sector increased strongly by 5.0% compared to 2020 figures, to reach its highest level ever recorded.

According to newly-available data released by [FEVE – the European Container Glass Federation](#):

- More than **23.4 million tonnes, or 83.3 billion bottles and jars**, were produced for the European and global markets in 2021 (1).
- Since 2012, **container glass production has grown by 18.6%**, at an average growth rate of 1.7% per year (2).
- Likewise, production of **glass flacons for the perfumery, cosmetics and pharmaceutical segments delivered a strong growth of 2.2%** to reach 13.6 billion units by the end of 2021 (3).

Reflecting on the record growth in production, Vitaliano Torno, President of FEVE, the European Container Glass Federation, comments: *“These figures prove our industry is working at pace to meet unprecedented market demand, with our glassworks producing at full speed, and we continue to go the extra mile to best address customers’ needs. We are proud of how the container glass industry has risen to the challenges of the last two years – including uncertainties around supply of energy and raw materials, increasing production costs and market dynamics – to provide critical packaging that ensures continued supply of food and beverages to consumers, all while meeting health, well-being and sustainability trends. This record growth underscores that glass packaging remains the preferred choice for our customers to enhance their products, communicate quality and value, and provide products in a packaging that consumers trust.”*

Glass packaging relied on for product performance and consumer appeal

Glass is a permanent material that can be endlessly recycled, with no loss in quality. Nearly 8 in every 10 bottles are collected for recycling each year (4), and over 20% of soft drinks, mineral waters and beer are packed in refillable glass bottles (5). Glass guarantees the best performance in terms of health safety, quality, taste preservation and shelf life, no matter how many times its recycled or reused (6).

Furthermore, glass is loved by consumers for the unique way it creates an emotional appeal with the product and is universally acknowledged as a modern material with a rich cultural heritage. To this end, [the United Nations has designated 2022 as the ‘International Year of Glass’](#), to acknowledge glass’s contribution to achieving the UN 2030 Sustainability Development Goals.

With glass packaging in the spotlight for its long-standing contribution to modern society and to markets around the globe, Vitaliano Torno concludes: *“The International Year of Glass is a unique acknowledgement for a single material, and emphasises what glass brings to the market. In challenging*

times, the glass industry continues to provide stability and deliver sustainable packaging solutions that are relied on by consumers and customers alike. This recognition also signals the importance of the circular economy model and serves as encouragement to innovate further and strengthen our sustainability footprint with cutting-edge technology.”

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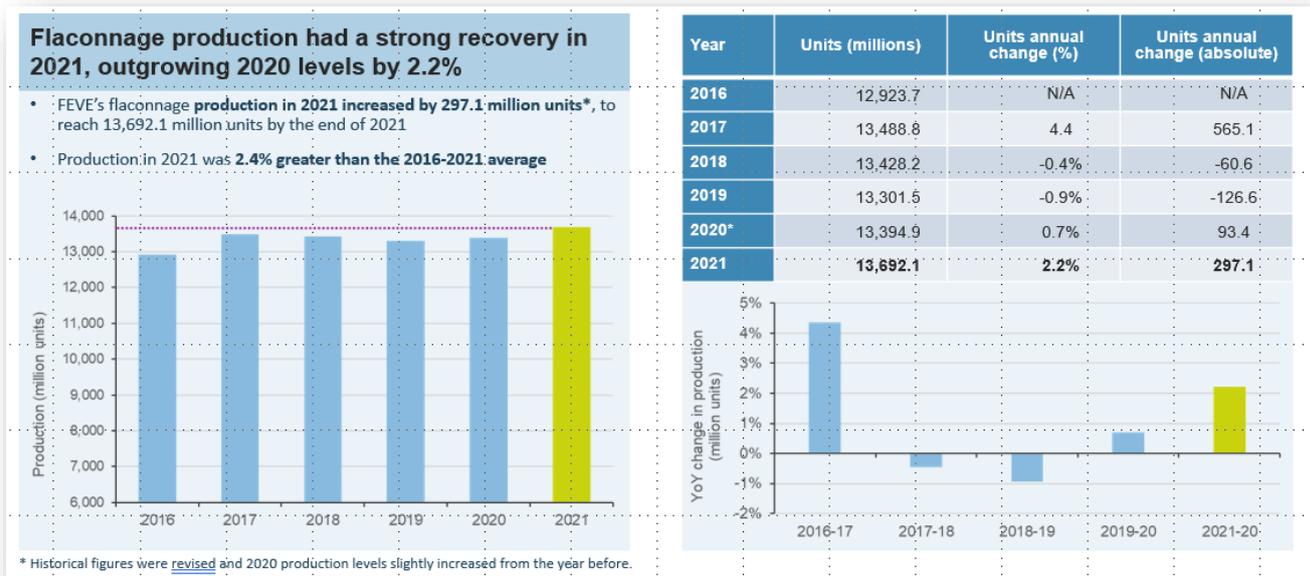
(1) Production Data Year 2021 - You can find data below and download tables on the website – www.feve.org



(2) Production Data Historic Trends - You can find data below and download tables on the website – www.feve.org

Year	Tonnage			Units		
	Production (1000 tonnes)	Annual change (%)	Annual change (raw)	Production (millions)	2020-21 Annual change (%)	2020-21 Annual change (raw)
2016	21,298	5.3%	1,080	77,291	4.6%	3,410
2017	21,879	2.7%	581	79,603	3.0%	2,312
2018	22,101	1.0%	222	79,669	0.1%	66
2019	22,818	3.2%	717	81,796	2.7%	2,126
2020	22,331	-2.1%	-487	80,872	-1.1%	-923
2021	23,458	5.0%	1,127	83,295	3.0%	2,423

(3) Flacons for Perfumery, Cosmetics and Pharma Production Data - You can find data below and download tables on the website – www.feve.org



(4) Recycling Statistics - You can find data below and download tables on the website – www.closestheglassloop.eu

(5) GlobalData 2019

(6) Literature report on food packaging materials and their potential impact on human health by Professor Dieter Schrenk, Professor of Food Chemistry and Toxicology at the Technische Universität Kaiserslautern, Germany, in April 2014
 – See - <https://www.friendsofglass.com/health/glass-for-your-health/>

About FEVE – The European Container Glass Federation

FEVE is the Federation of European manufacturers of glass containers. Its members produce over 20 million tonnes of glass per year. The association has some 60 corporate members belonging to approximately 20 independent groups. Manufacturing plants are located across 23 European States and include global blue chip and major companies working for the world's biggest consumer brands. The Container Glass sector in Europe, makes a significant contribution to the EU Economy and supports essential sectors. More than 125,000 people work in the glass packaging value chain across Europe. It guarantees resilient local supply chains, with a proximity of service to its suppliers and clients. Every year €610 million is invested in upgrading plants for better energy efficiency and reduced CO₂ emissions (a significant 10% of the operational and maintenance costs). The sector exports around €1.2 billion (empty bottles and jars) and if we take account of items almost always or often packed in glass, glass is an enabler of extra EU exports of around €250 billion (data 2019).

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