



Q3 Report
OCT 2021

Recall Recap

In Q3 2021 there were:

2,326
food recalls

88 Class I Recalls
48 Class II Recalls
17 Class III Recalls

20% of all recalls
were due to bacterial
pathogens



Supply Chain Disruptions Front and Center

The COVID-19 pandemic has put formerly resilient supply chains in the spotlight over the past year and a half with the shutdown of restaurants and other away-from-home options leading to an unprecedented demand on grocery stores and specifically for packaged and prepared foods and beverages. Sales of CPG products soared starting in Spring of 2020 and have remained high ever since. With many people shifting towards work-from-home situations, they will likely continue to consume more at home, keeping both demand and sales elevated in these areas for the foreseeable future.

In addition to strong shifts in both supply and demand throughout the pandemic, recent labor shortages, price jumps, and supply chain bottlenecks are rattling the food and beverage industry. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations issued its Food Price Index, which showed an average of 130 points in September, a 32% jump since the same period in 2020.¹ Ongoing delays at international ports have led to growing backlogs and have stagnated the typical flow of goods to consumers. These are only a few of the factors at play that have combined and perpetuated the stresses on the existing supply chain system.

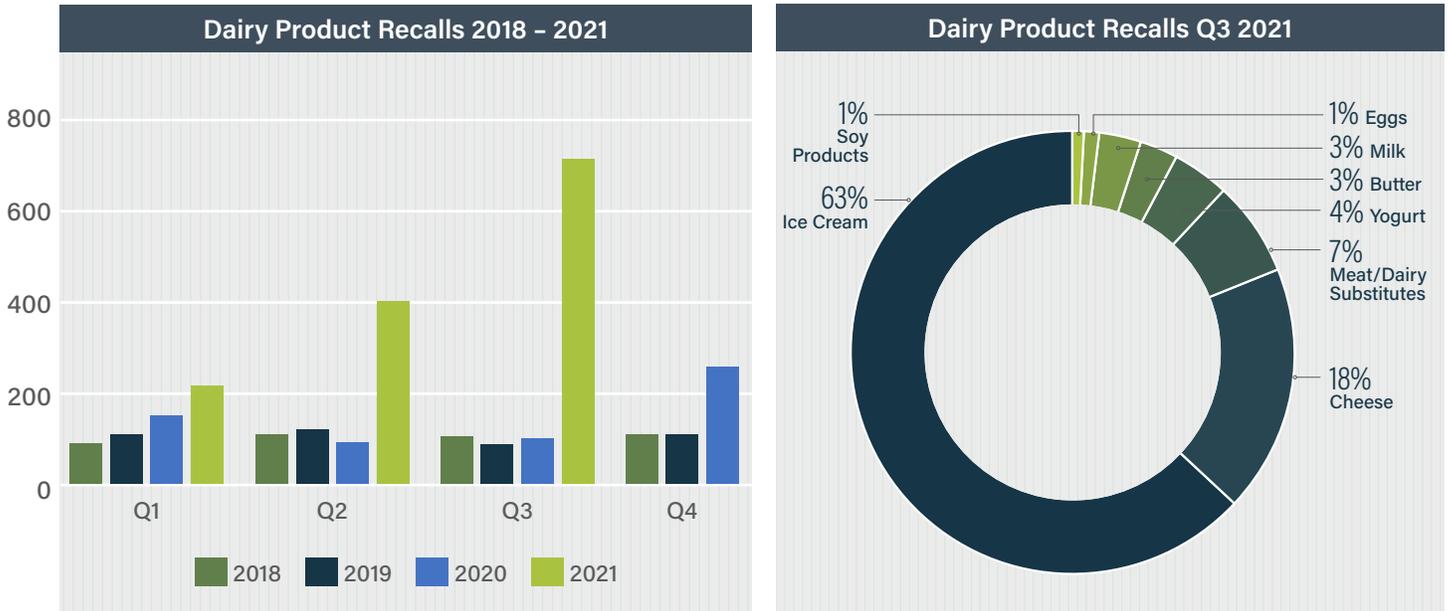
Both the long and short-term impacts of the pandemic have seriously impacted existing supply chains, forcing suppliers and retailers to try to move towards more agile and robust systems. Many are investing in technology that will help them manage future disruptions by providing better visibility into the supply chain and allowing them to make more informed decisions. We are glad to be a part of all of our clients' food safety plans as they work to provide a consistent flow of goods and meet consumer demands as these disruptions continue. As COVID-19 and the ensuing supply chain disruptions continue to impact the industry, we will work to provide timely and accurate information regarding food and product safety, bolstering existing crisis management plans.

¹ FAO.org. (n.d.). *The FAO Food Price Index rose further in September*. FAO Food Price Index | World Food Situation | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

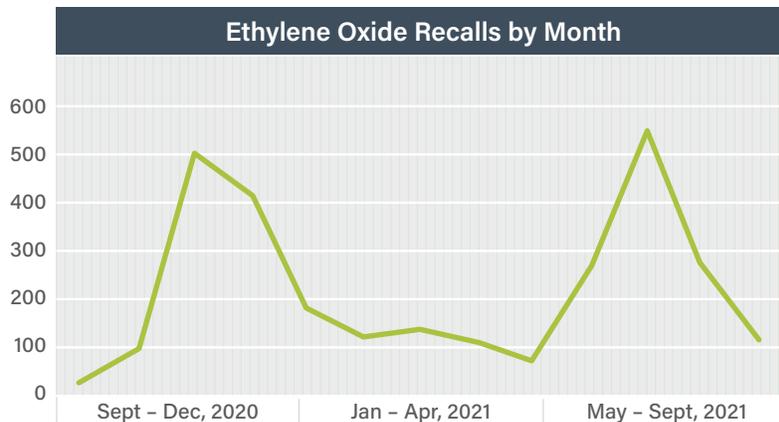
Data Spotlight – Dairy Recalls on the Rise

There was a large increase in Dairy product alerts throughout Q3, with over 96% due to high Ethylene Oxide levels. Ice cream products were the main focus here with recalls impacting companies from over a dozen different countries.

Cheese recalls made up 18% of recalls in the Dairy sector worldwide, with the occurrence of two major events; *Listeria* was found in multiple cheeses from Cahills Farm in Ireland (leading to recalls in the U.S. and Canada) and Reblochon from France. In both cases, the products in question were sold at the retail level throughout Europe, though no illnesses were reported.



This sharp uptick from the past quarter drove Ethylene Oxide-related numbers up dramatically for the second time since the event first began last year. The spike at the end of 2020 was mostly due to the recall of baked goods, cereals and grains, and seeds and seed-based goods such as tahini and hummus, with dozens of individual reports being tracked each day. Since August, numbers have begun to drop off slightly – a hopeful sign for the industry.



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