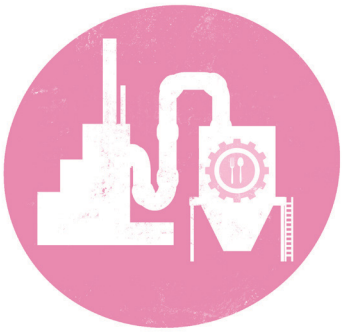
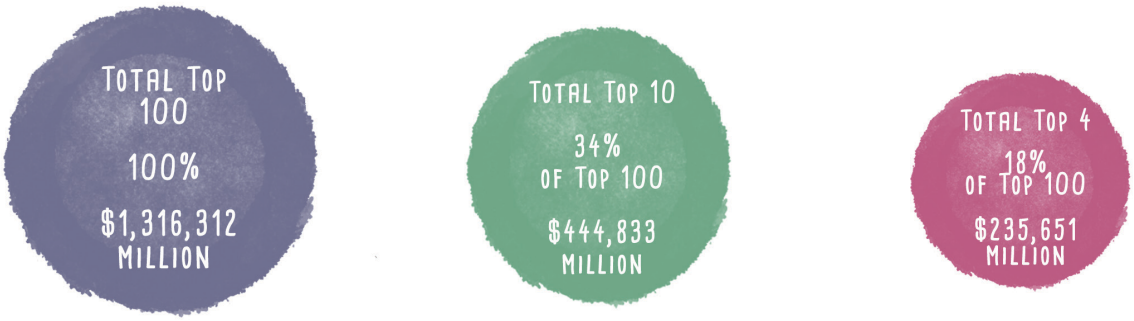
Food & beverage processing

– IN A NUTSHELL –



The **Food & Beverage Processing** industry focuses on the post-harvest processing of raw agricultural commodities into consumer products – both foodstuffs and feedstuffs for human and animal consumption.

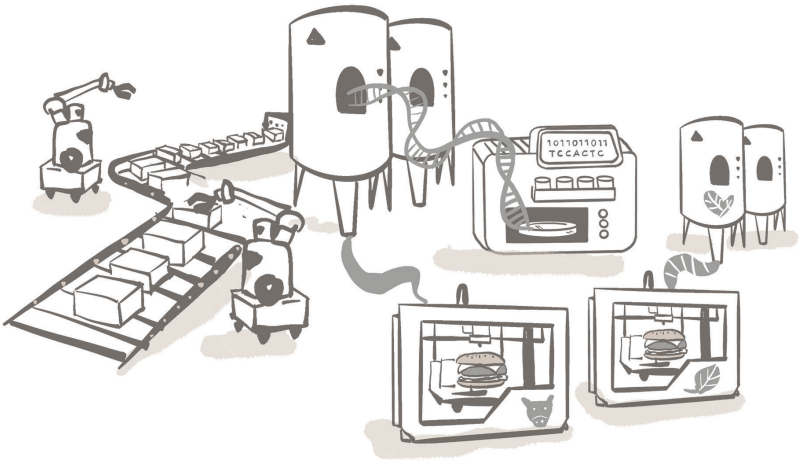


RANK	COMPANY (HEADQUARTERS)	F&B SALES, 2020 US$ MILLIONS
1	PEPSICO (USA)	$ 70,372
2	NESTLÉ (SWITZERLAND)	$ 67,708
3	JBS (BRAZIL)	$ 50,690
4	ANHEUSER-BUSCH INBEV (BELGIUM)	$ 46,881
5	TYSON FOODS (USA)	$ 43,185
6	MARS (USA)	$ 37,000
7	ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND CO (USA)	$ 35,395
8	THE COCA-COLA CO (USA)	$ 34,300
9	CARGILL (USA)	$ 32,375
10	DANONE (FRANCE)	$ 26,927

LEADING COMPANIES BY FOOD & BEVERAGE (F&B) SALES, 2020

etc GROUP

Highlights from the full report:



The global pandemic hasn't diminished the Food & Beverage sector's appetite for mergers and acquisitions. 2020 saw a 36% increase in the number of these M&A deals – totaling US$110 billion.

Big Food is no longer content to see its big brands sit passively on the grocer's shelf. Now these Food & Beverage giants are investing in digital tech and mining customer data to nudge sales.

In hot pursuit of "green haloes," industrial food giants are rolling out ambitious sustainability pledges to "decarbonise" their business models in myriad ways – from embracing "regenerative agriculture" and "carbon-footprint" product labels, to genetic tinkering and geo-engineering.

Chew on this

Lofty pledges to slash greenhouse gas emissions often exclude supply chains and consumer waste, and involve murky accounting. A 2021 list of the world's top 10 corporate plastic polluters includes six companies that are also on our list of the top 15 largest Food & Beverage firms.

Nestlé is forging direct links to consumers by expanding its portfolios in "dietary management" and "personalised nutrition." Acquisitions of a peanut-allergy treatment maker and a "healthy" meal delivery company are two recent efforts.

JBS, which pledged to invest US$100 million by 2030 in so-called "regenerative farming," including carbon sequestration and on-farm emission mitigation technologies, actually increased its emissions by a staggering 51% between 2016 and 2021.

Big Food's quest for cheaper raw materials and input substitution is nothing new, but investment in climate-driven techno-fixes is heating up too. For example, with climate chaos threatening the sustainability of future coffee harvests, the food industry is betting on synthetic biology research to coax engineered microbes and coffee plant cells to brew in bioreactors.