

INTERNATIONAL
**FRESH
PRODUCE**
ASSOCIATION

**2024 Consumer Perception of the
Produce & Floral Industries**



Who we are:

International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) is the leading global trade association representing companies in the fresh produce and floral supply chain.

We are here to:

- advocates for members and industry;
- connects individuals and organizations with ideas, data and with each other;
- guides with education, insight, expertise, and solutions.



Produce Industry Branding

In today's fast-paced world, people turn to quick, convenient meals and snacks. But where will they look tomorrow? The fruit and vegetable industry's brand is vital in capturing consumers' attention and preference.

Why it matters: Understanding our brand is crucial. By resonating with consumers, we can increase our share of stomach and compete against other grocery store products.

The big picture: A brand is shaped by consumer perception and every aspect of the industry. And to win the food fight, fruits and vegetables must compete with various grocery store sections.

The bottom line: Consumer feedback helps us understand brand perception and increases our share of stomach.



Understanding Brand Perception

Brand perception is crucial in developing relationships with customers and winning their loyalty.

Why it matters: Consumers always consider their emotional connection when choosing between items that fulfil a similar purpose whether it be hunger in the produce category or indulgence in the floral category.

The big picture: Understanding the personality and attributes of our industries helps us connect with consumers.

The bottom line: Leverage industry personality and attributes to help shape your brand perception with consumers.



A guide for marketers

What this research tell us:

- While the reputation of the produce industry is stronger than the benchmarked industry. This is good for businesses to build their messaging.
- The produce industry is seen as dynamic but we can still benefit by demonstrating innovations in breeding and growing as well as showing produce in modern settings.
- Produce marketing can build off the industry's personality of being exotic and classic – “fruits and vegetables should be the highlight of every meal.”
- There is an opportunity to build on produce is mindful of the environment. This matters to consumers, yet the produce industry is not leveraging it.
- To attract the best talent, is important that consumers have understands that it treats it employees fairly.



Our Research Methodology

The study was conducted using an online methodology, with all fieldwork conducted on the Russell Research survey website.

A total of 4,533 interviews were conducted from February 9 – 28, 2024.

To qualify for study inclusion, respondents were screened to meet the following qualifications:

- Age 18 - 78
- Primary or shared responsibility for purchasing groceries for household
- Purchase groceries once a month or more often
- Typically purchase groceries at a supermarket/grocery store or online retailer
- Reside within the United States, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Germany, China or Australia
- Does not work in a competitive industry

All research was carried out in compliance with all relevant legal and ethical requirements within the United States and in compliance with ISO 20252:2019.



Germany Consumer Perception

- Consumer impressions of the fruit and vegetable industry are very good compared to benchmarks.
 - Half of all German consumers have a favorable impression (significantly higher or at parity to all other industries).
 - Nearly half of all consumers believe the industry is 'on its way up' while close to the balance believe its 'holding its ground'. These industry Momentum ratings are above Floral, Dairy, and Meat.
 - Just over half of all consumers describe the fruit and vegetable industry as very/somewhat favorable – superior to most competitive benchmarks.

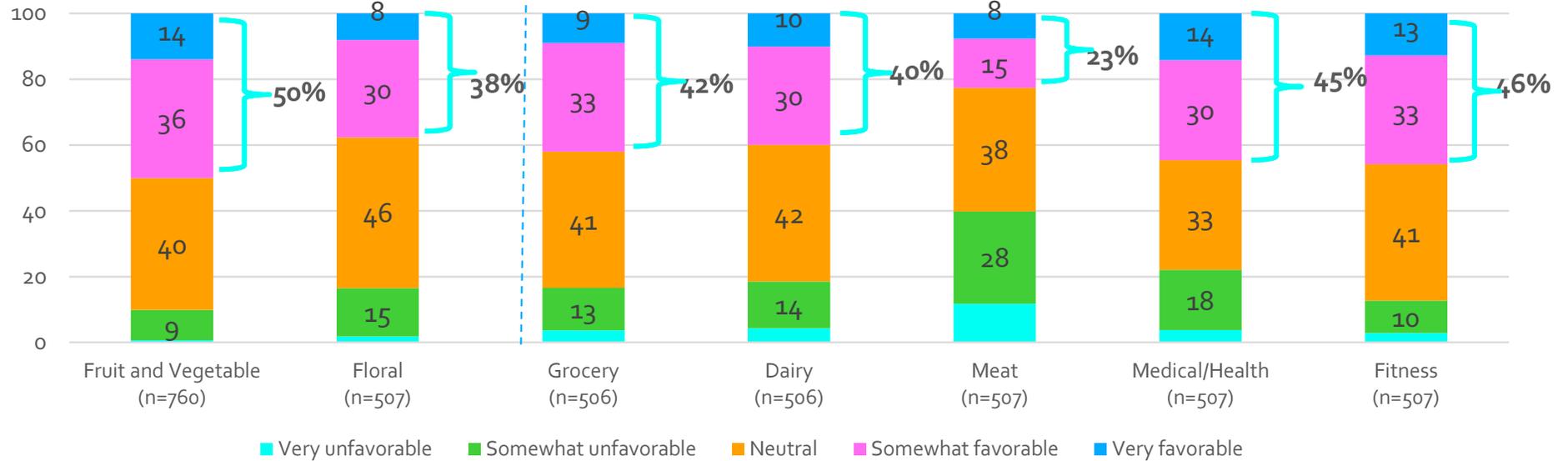
Fruit & Veggie Industry	Fruit & Veggie Industry Personality Traits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotes both <u>individual</u> and <u>public</u> health• Adapts quickly• Offers affordable options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exotic• Friendly• Classic

- A relative importance analysis indicates it would be beneficial to communicate that the industry is *Mindful of the environment*.



Half of consumers have a favorable impression of the fruit & veggie industry. This impression is significantly more favorable than grocery, dairy, meat, and floral allowing industry to use this positive foundation for marketing.

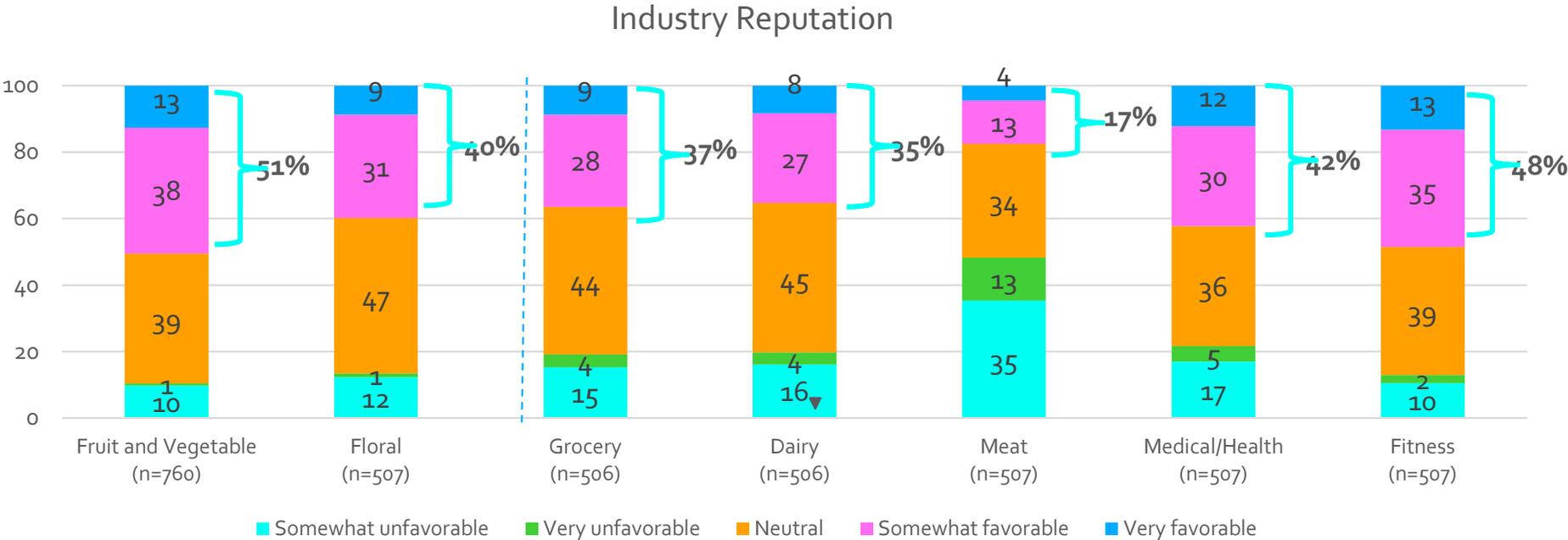
Overall Industry Impressions



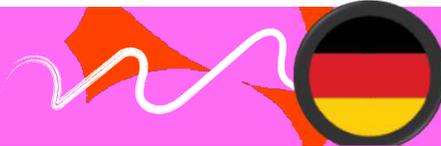
Base: Total Germany Respondents Evaluating Industry
 3. What is your overall impression of the [INSERT INDUSTRY]?



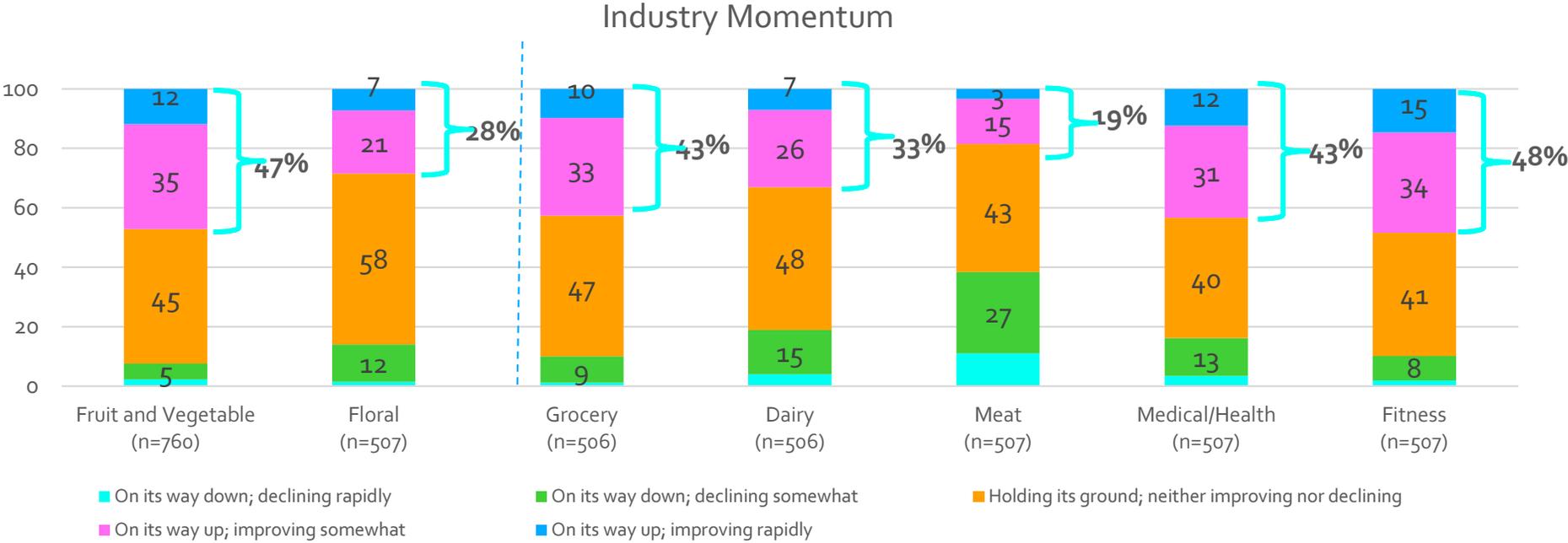
Half of German consumers believe the fruit & veggie industry has a favorable reputation providing marketers with a great foundation on which to message.



Base: Total Germany Respondents Evaluating Industry
 6. Which of the following best describes what you feel is the current reputation of the [INSERT INDUSTRY]?

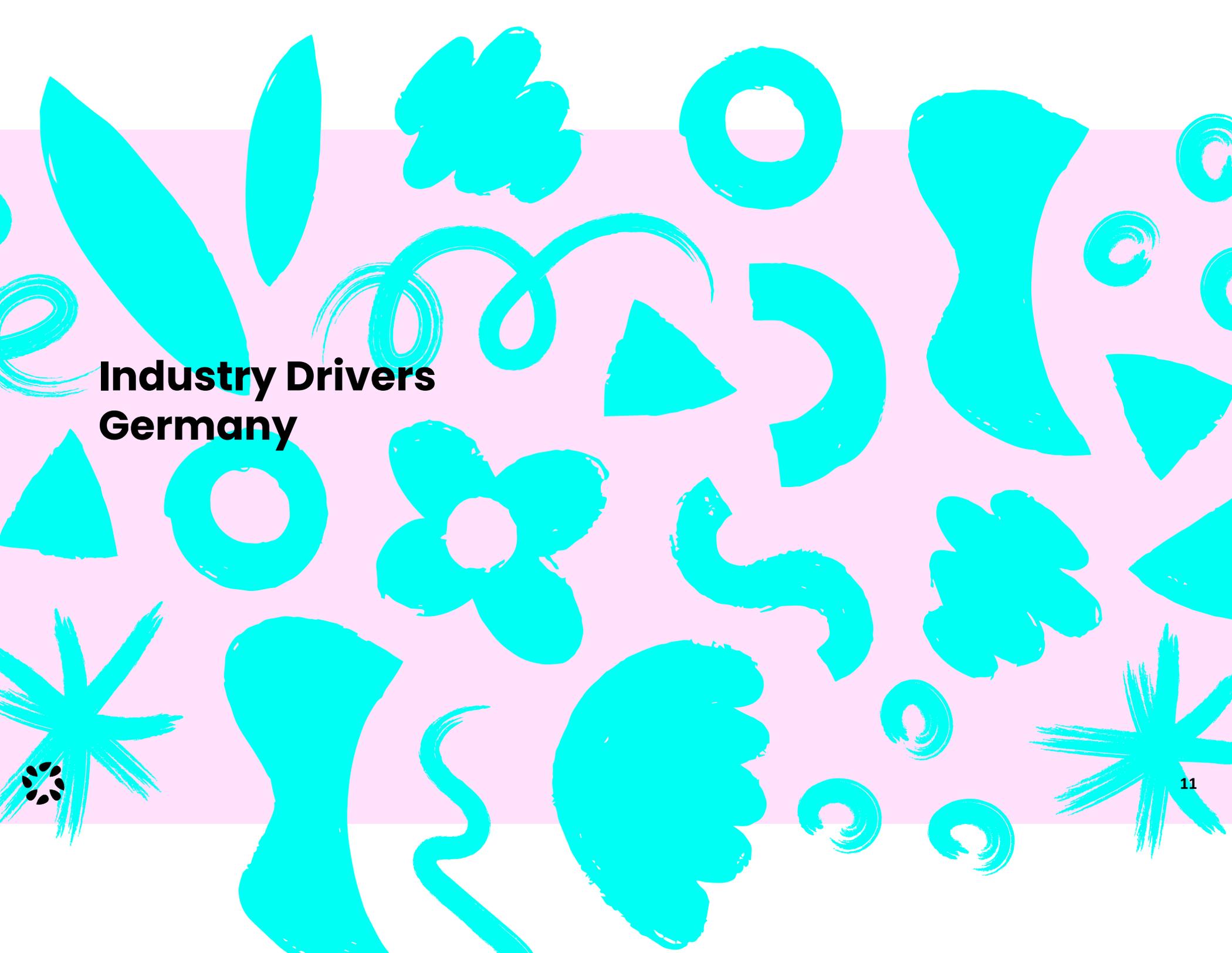


Nearly half of consumers believe the fruit & veggie industry is dynamic - on its way up/gaining momentum. This is a great foundation on which to build communications about innovation, technology, and sustainability efforts.



Base: Total Germany Respondents Evaluating Industry
 5. When you think about certain industries, some seem to be on their way up and have a lot going for them, while others don't. Which of these statements best describes how you feel about the [INSERT INDUSTRY]?





Industry Drivers Germany



Relative Importance for Produce Industry

Relative Importance

What is it?

It is an extension of regression analysis that allows us to assess which attributes are most important and exactly how much more important one is than another.

The most important factors to German consumers when evaluating the produce industry are:

Creates products worth paying extra for

Promotes individual health

Is mindful of the environment

	Relative Importance	Rank Order
Total Germany Respondents	(760)	
Creates products or services worth paying extra for	12.86	1
Promotes individual health	11.27	2
Is mindful of the environment	11.13	3
Is trustworthy	10.87	4
Promotes public health	10.61	5
Attracts top talent	5.80	6
Treats employees fairly	5.77	7
Offers affordable options	5.06	8
Values diversity, equity and inclusion	4.98	9
Is transparent in its production/service methods	4.62	10
Helps solve some of society's most pressing problems	4.05	11
Adapts quickly to meet the needs of consumers	3.63	12
Is innovative	3.10	13
Makes room for a wide variety of brands	2.48	14
Uses technology wisely	1.90	15
Offers unique products and experiences	1.86	16



Stated vs. Relative Importance

The results of the Relative Importance Analysis are compared to what consumers state is important to them and plotted on a quadrant map. From this map, three important groupings of attributes are defined as follows:

Critically Important

(High Relative / High Stated Importance)

- **These are strong positioning attributes if an industry can deliver in these areas.**
 - ✓ Is trustworthy
 - ✓ Is mindful of the environment
 - ✓ Promotes individual health

Hidden Opportunities

(High Relative / Low Stated Importance)

- **These drivers may not be expressed but are important positioning attributes.**
 - ✓ Promotes public health
 - ✓ Creates products or services worth paying extra for

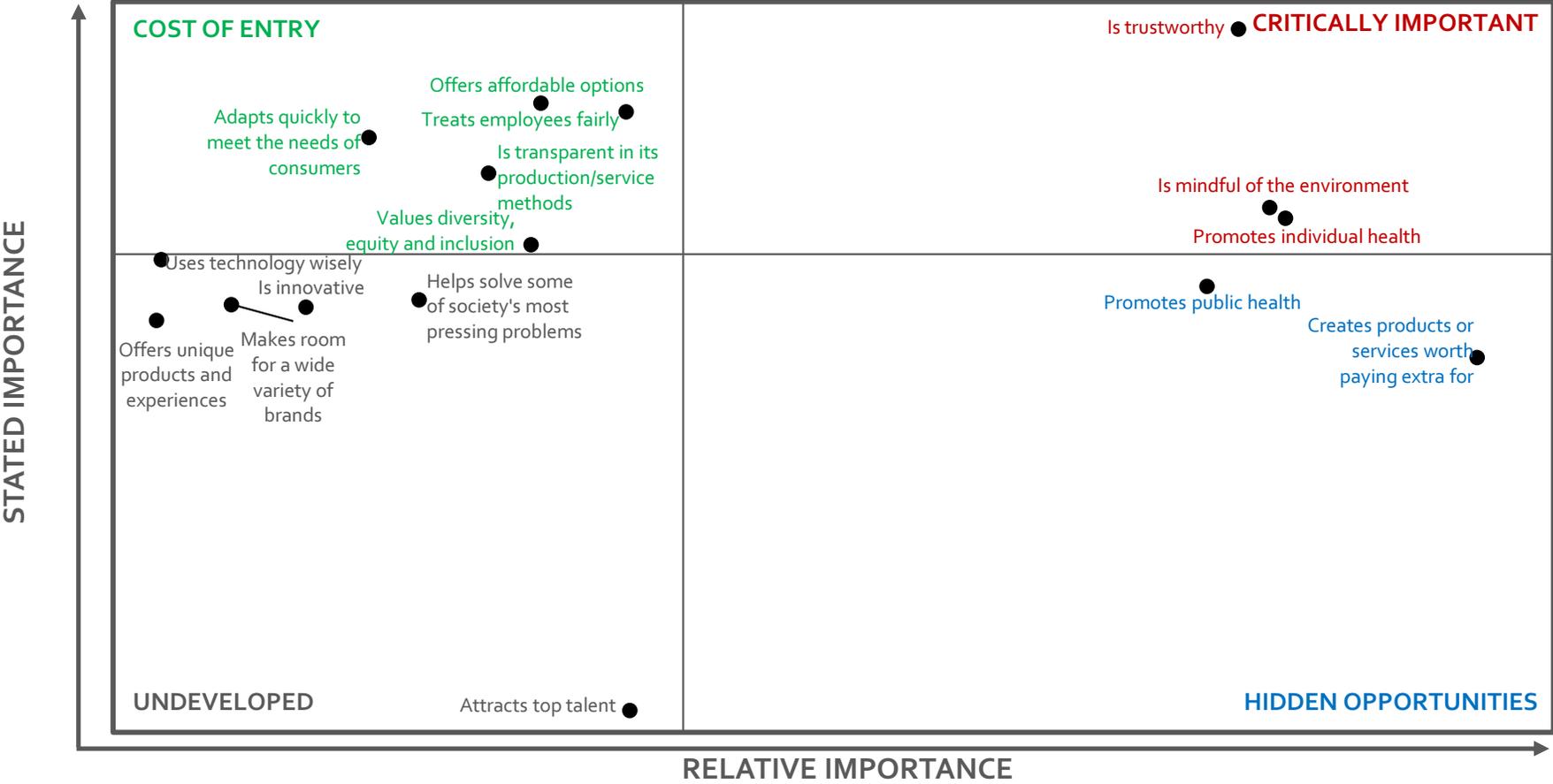
Cost of Entry

(Low Relative / High Stated Importance)

- **These are important for all category industries to deliver. They are necessary but provide no leverage.**
 - ✓ Offers affordable options
 - ✓ Treats employees fairly
 - ✓ Is transparent in its production/service methods
 - ✓ Adapts quickly to meet the needs of consumers
 - ✓ Values diversity, equity and inclusion



Stated vs. Relative Importance



Relative Importance

What is it?

It is an extension of regression analysis that allows us to assess which attributes are most important and exactly how much more important one is than another.

The most important factors to German consumers when evaluating the produce industry are:

- Promotes individual & public health
- Adapts quickly to meet the needs of consumers
- Offers affordable options

Industry Descriptor Agreement Ratings (Top-Two Box Ratings: Agree Completely/Somewhat)

	Fruit and Vegetable	Floral	Grocery	Dairy	Meat	Medical/ Healthcare	Fitness
Total Germany Respondents Evaluating Industry	(760)	(507)	(506)	(506)	(507)	(507)	(507)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Promotes individual health	74	31	49	59	34	76	78
Promotes public health	72	30	49	57	28	76	75
Adapts quickly to meet the needs of consumers	66	54	74	61	46	61	68
Offers affordable options	66	53	67	61	51	49	54
Makes room for a wide variety of brands	64	44	73	59	45	52	48
Is trustworthy	62	53	56	57	37	59	58
Offers unique products and experiences	62	57	62	55	46	56	57
Creates products or services worth paying extra for	60	43	52	54	44	50	48
Is innovative	56	45	60	54	39	68	65
Is mindful of the environment	56	47	47	51	30	44	39
Values diversity, equity and inclusion	55	44	50	47	33	49	54
Is transparent in its production/service methods	54	43	46	49	32	45	51
Uses technology wisely	54	38	55	55	38	74	63
Helps solve some of society's most pressing problems	51	31	48	41	29	64	46
Treats employees fairly	49	39	49	47	32	47	50
Attracts top talent	33	25	34	32	23	51	46



2. Thinking about the [INSERT INDUSTRY], how much do you agree or disagree that the following attribute describes this industry?



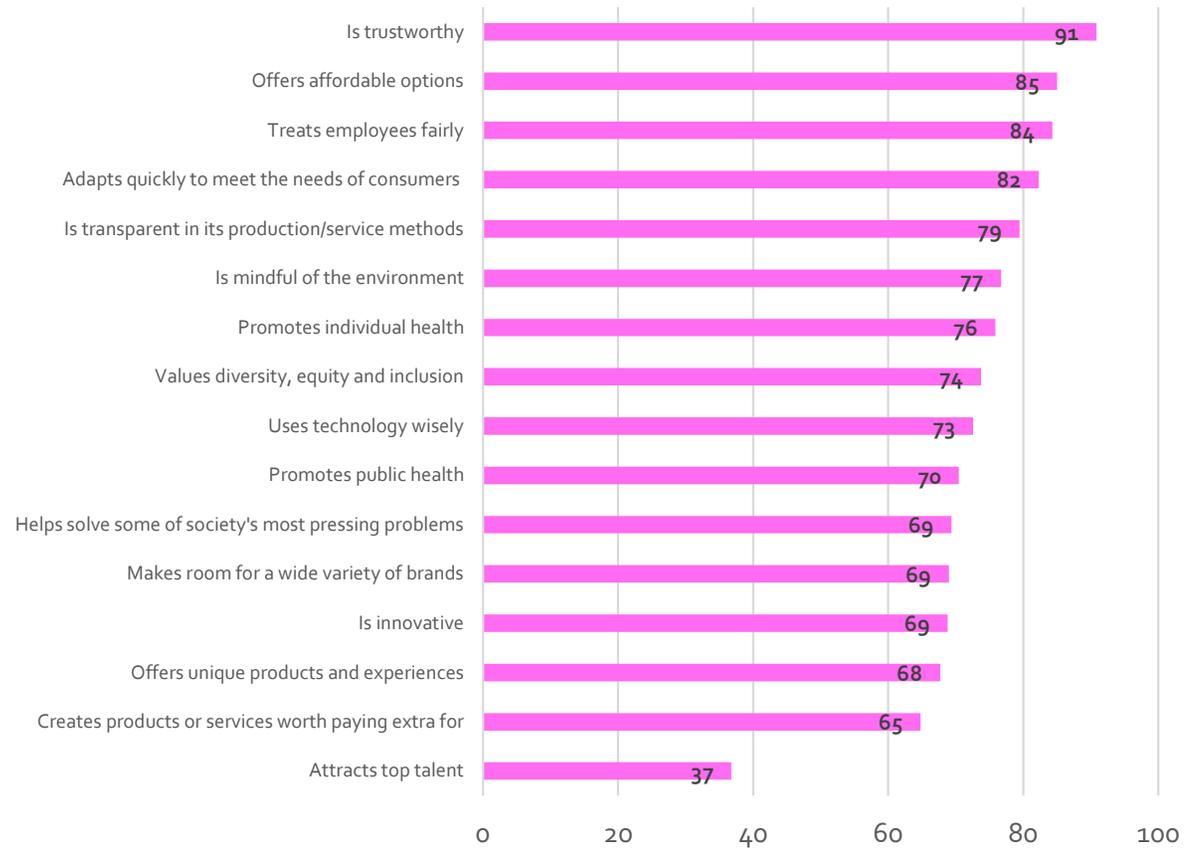
When thinking about any type of industry...

German consumers place the highest importance on

Trustworthiness
Offers affordable products
Treats employees fairly

Stated Importance for Any Industry

(Top-Two Box Ratings: Extremely/Very Important)



Base: Total Germany Respondents (n=760)

1. How important is it to you that any type of industry ...?



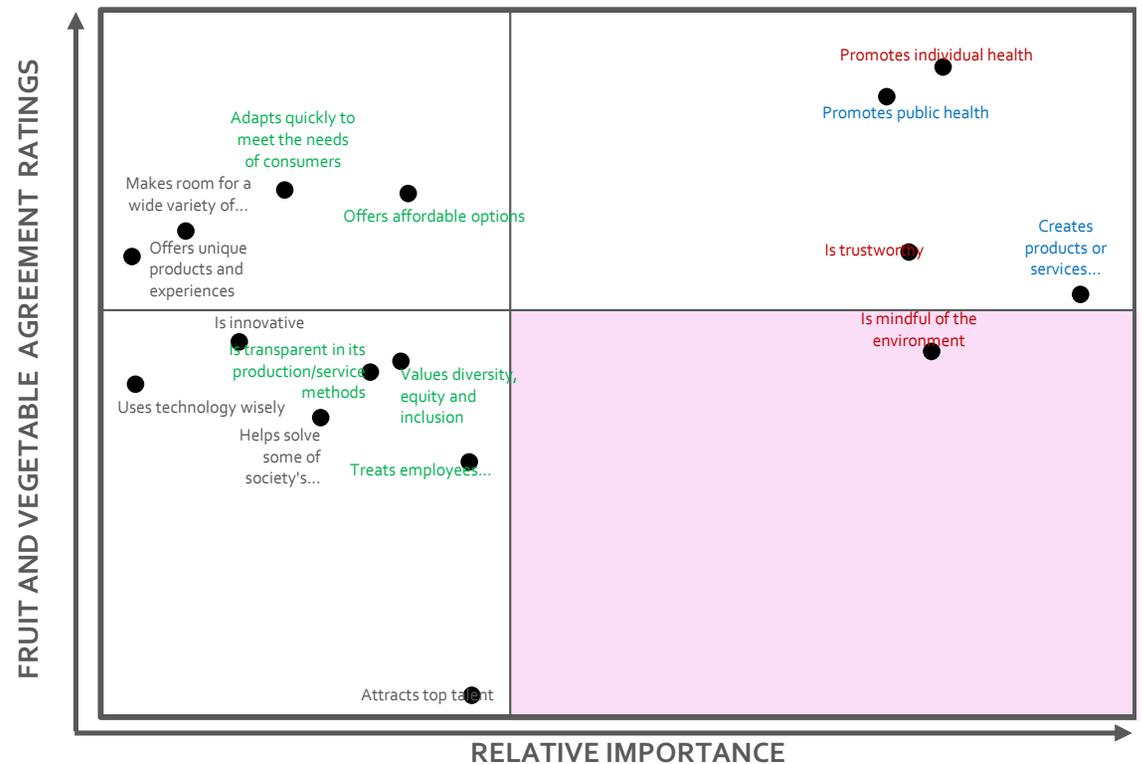
The relative importance of each statement and respondents' agreement that the industry portrays that statement was plotted on this map.

Attributes on the right side are most important to respondents.

Attributes appearing in the lower right quadrant need the greatest attention—they are high in relative importance but rated low for the industry.

The German produce industry has an opportunity to communicate it as being mindful of the environment.

Relative Importance vs. Produce Agreement Ratings



Produce Industry Personality

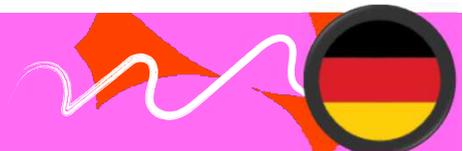


AI Chosen Image to Depict Produce Industry

	Fruit and Vegetable	Floral	Grocery	Dairy	Meat	Medical/ Healthcare	Fitness
Total Germany Respondents Evaluating Industry	(760)	(507)	(506)	(506)	(507)	(507)	(507)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Exotic	31	28	7	4	5	3	4
Friendly	31	44	32	24	13	19	32
Classic	30	35	30	37	35	25	14
Confident	26	19	22	24	14	25	22
Trustworthy	23	20	25	23	13	31	17
Simple	23	20	23	21	20	10	14
Modern	22	24	25	18	9	28	42
Expert	21	19	19	21	18	43	29
Approachable	20	23	23	18	11	15	26
Trendy	20	27	20	13	7	6	47
Honest	19	17	15	22	11	20	13
Budget-Conscious	16	10	24	17	16	17	8
Fun	15	24	10	13	4	4	45
Uptight	14	8	13	13	11	15	12
Accepting	14	12	18	13	11	18	14
Consistent	12	8	16	12	14	17	9
Adventurous	8	9	16	8	7	6	21
Casual	7	10	7	5	7	4	23
Formal	6	7	8	8	8	18	5
Outdated	6	7	8	10	24	12	3
Boring	3	6	6	6	8	4	4



4. Imagine for a moment the [INSERT INDUSTRY] was a person. What types of words and/or descriptions would you use to describe that person? Please select as many or as few adjectives and/or descriptors you'd like.



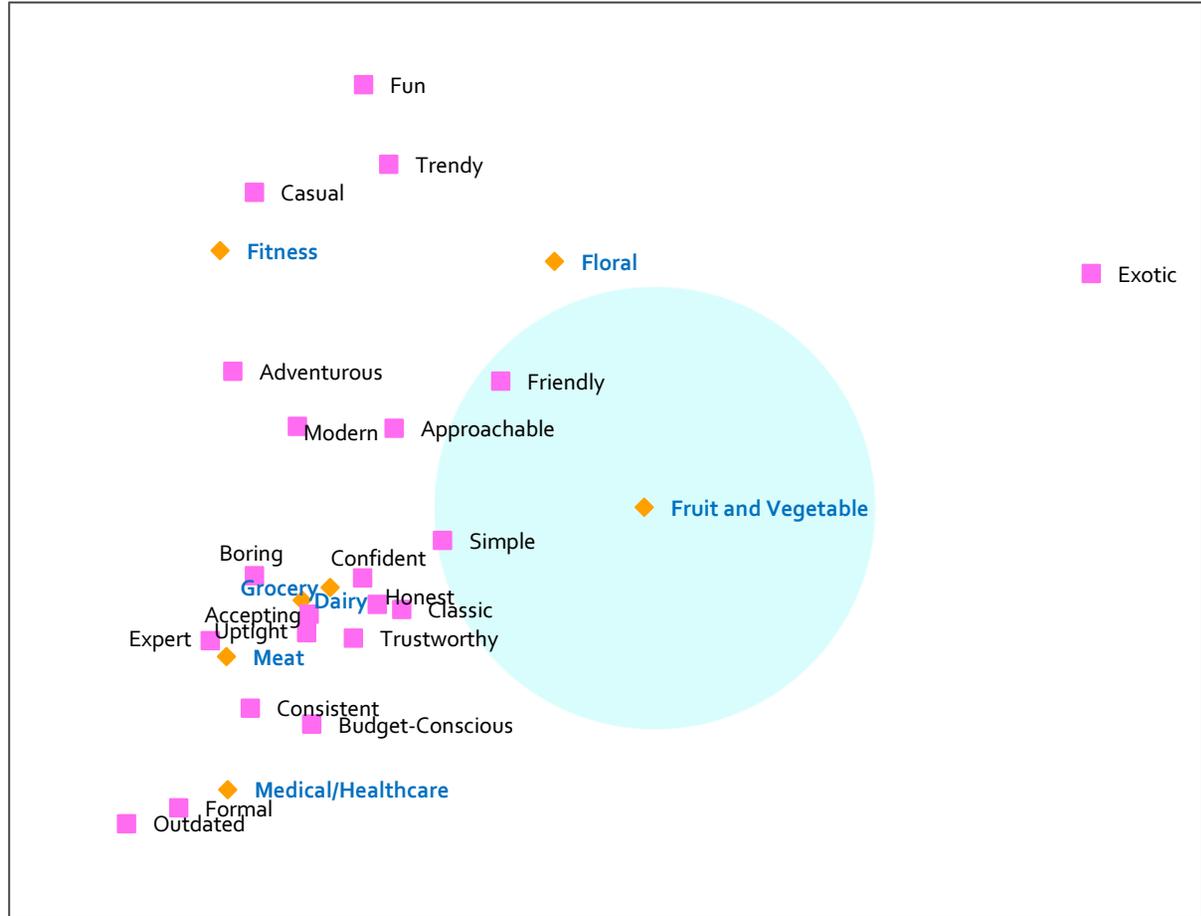
Industry Personality Correspondence Map

Correspondence analysis

What it is:

A mapping technique that allows us to determine which industry attributes are most differentiating for and which attributes would need to be changed to move industry perceptions closer or farther from another industry.

Industries and attributes that are rated similarly are placed close to each other on the map, while those that are rated differently will appear in a different area of the map.



Produce Industry Findings By Key Segments

	Total Germany	Gender		Generation				Income	
		Male	Female	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Less Than €43,000	€43,000 or More
Total Germany Respondents	(760)	(355)	(405)	(44)	(213)	(250)	(253)	(430)	(292)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Overall Impression of Industry									
Very Favorable	14	16	12	14	13	17	11	13	16
Very/Somewhat Favorable	50	53	47	51	51	50	49	46	57
Industry Momentum									
On its way up /Improving rapidly	12	12	11	12	11	14	10	12	13
On its way up /Improving rapidly or somewhat	47	51	44	49	46	45	50	48	47
Industry Reputation									
Very Favorable	13	13	13	13	12	15	10	11	16
Very/Somewhat Favorable	51	55	46	60	48	49	50	48	57



Produce Industry Findings By Key Segments

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Total Germany Respondents	(760)	(355)	(405)	(44)	(213)	(250)	(253)	(430)	(292)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Promotes individual health	74	74	74	79	75	75	71	74	75
Promotes public health	72	74	71	87	72	70	68	72	74
Adapts quickly to meet the needs of consumers	66	65	68	66	64	66	70	66	66
Offers affordable options	66	65	67	78	62	66	65	65	69
Makes room for a wide variety of brands	64	62	65	61	64	66	62	64	64
Is trustworthy	62	62	63	56	66	61	63	62	66
Offers unique products and experiences	62	61	63	57	65	61	62	60	66
Creates products or services worth paying extra for	60	59	60	62	67	60	50	55	67
Is innovative	56	57	56	60	52	54	62	58	57
Is mindful of the environment	56	56	56	55	58	54	56	58	55
Values diversity, equity and inclusion	55	55	55	59	59	52	53	54	59
Is transparent in its production/service methods	54	56	53	62	55	51	54	56	55
Uses technology wisely	54	56	51	48	55	51	58	54	55
Helps solve some of society's most pressing problems	51	53	50	55	55	53	44	49	56
Treats employees fairly	49	45	52	63	51	44	44	49	49
Attracts top talent	33	34	33	51	39	30	23	31	38



Produce Industry Findings By Key Segments

	Total Germany	Gender		Generation				Income	
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Total Germany Respondents	(760)	(355)	(405)	(44)	(213)	(250)	(253)	(430)	(292)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Exotic	31	28	35	34	37	31	25	32	32
Friendly	31	30	31	32	29	30	31	31	31
Classic	30	35	25	34	30	28	31	33	28
Confident	26	27	25	28	20	28	29	27	26
Trustworthy	23	27	20	14	22	23	30	24	23
Simple	23	27	19	35	21	25	17	25	22
Modern	22	20	24	18	23	24	21	24	20
Expert	21	23	18	15	14	26	23	20	22
Approachable	20	21	20	24	19	18	22	23	18
Trendy	20	20	20	15	20	21	21	22	17
Honest	19	19	18	14	22	20	16	21	16
Budget-Conscious	16	17	15	11	16	16	19	17	16
Fun	15	17	14	24	16	15	11	16	16
Uptight	14	15	14	15	17	14	13	15	15
Accepting	14	14	14	18	14	14	12	15	13
Consistent	12	12	12	13	11	12	11	12	12
Adventurous	8	9	7	7	6	8	10	9	6
Casual	7	5	9	11	6	7	5	7	6
Formal	6	6	5	6	5	7	4	6	5
Outdated	6	5	6	9	7	5	3	5	6
Boring	3	4	2	4	4	3	2	4	1



Shopping Habits

	Total Germany	Gender		Generation				Income	
		Male	Female	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Less Than €43,000	€43,000 or More
Total Germany Respondents	(760)	(355)	(405)	(44)	(213)	(250)	(253)	(430)	(292)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Responsibility for Grocery Purchases									
Primarily responsible	75	71	79	65	79	79	72	75	75
Share responsibility	25	29	21	35	21	21	28	25	25
Frequency of Purchasing Groceries									
Several times per week	55	55	55	52	62	58	46	52	59
Once a week	40	41	39	42	32	40	48	42	38
2 to 3 times per month	5	4	5	6	5	3	6	6	3
Once a month	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mean times per month:	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.7	6.6	5.9	6.3	6.6
Groceries Purchase on a Regular Basis									
Fresh produce (fruits and vegetables)	95	96	95	93	94	96	97	94	97
Beef and/or poultry	79	81	78	71	84	81	75	75	87
Dairy milk	79	80	78	72	80	80	78	74	86
Fresh flowers	33	32	35	36	34	30	36	29	41



Shopping Habits

	Total Germany	Gender		Generation				Income	
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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Typical Grocery Purchase Locations *									
Supermarket/Grocery Store	99	98	99	97	99	99	99	98	99
Drug Store	36	30	41	42	43	37	24	33	40
Online retailer	20	19	21	18	31	21	8	15	28
Farmer's Market/Farm Store	16	16	17	9	17	17	18	12	22
Mass Merchandiser	14	13	14	22	18	14	5	12	18
Convenience Store	12	14	9	18	16	10	7	12	13
Dollar Store	5	3	6	6	7	4	2	6	3
Warehouse Club	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	3

* Respondents had to purchase from a supermarket/grocery store and/or from an online retailer to qualify for this study.



Demographic Summary

	Total Germany	Gender		Generation				Income	
		Male	Female	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Less Than €43,000	€43,000 or More
Total Germany Respondents	(760)	(355)	(405)	(44)	(213)	(250)	(253)	(430)	(292)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Gender									
Male	49	100	-	33	45	50	59	44	59
Female	51	-	100	67	55	50	41	56	41
Generation									
Gen Z (18 - 26)	13	9	17	100	-	-	-	16	9
Millennials (27 - 42)	28	26	30	-	100	-	-	24	34
Gen X (43 - 58)	32	33	31	-	-	100	-	28	36
Boomers (59 - 78)	27	33	22	-	-	-	100	32	21
Mean Age:	47.0	49.4	44.6	23.2	35.1	50.8	66.2	47.7	45.9
Marital Status									
Married	39	41	37	9	39	43	49	26	59
Not Married	61	59	62	89	61	56	51	73	41
Employment Status									
Employed	63	64	62	68	85	70	30	49	85
Not Employed	36	35	38	32	14	29	70	50	15



Demographic Summary

	Total Germany	Gender		Generation				Income	
		Male	Female	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Less Than €43.000	€43.000 or More
Total Germany Respondents	(760)	(355)	(405)	(44)	(213)	(250)	(253)	(430)	(292)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
				[Z]	[M]	[X]	[B]		
Education									
Less than high school	29	27	31	29	29	32	25	37	16
High school	35	33	38	37	30	34	42	37	33
College	35	40	31	34	40	34	33	26	50
Median Annual Household Income:	€37.4K	€41.6K	€34.4K	€32.2K	€42.7K	€40.6K	€32.0K	€25.3K	€63.3K
Region									
South Regions	27	27	27	52	25	24	20	24	31
East Regions	26	27	24	15	19	28	33	27	23
West Region	21	21	21	12	26	21	19	20	21
North Regions	14	13	16	14	16	14	14	15	14
Center Regions	13	13	12	8	14	12	14	13	11
Another Area	11	11	11	20	11	10	8	9	14

