



## Sustainability report 2023–2024



## The Valensina Group at a glance



approx. **510 products**



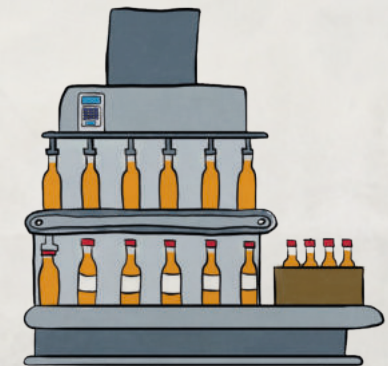
approx. **270 million euros**  
annual turnover



**3 locations**  
across Germany



approx. **400 employees**



approx. **170 million liters**  
produced annually

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## Foreword

As an owner-managed company, we set ourselves goals that reflect our values. This sustainability report shows that it is possible to combine economic interests and ethical responsibility – also in challenging times.

Our efforts were rewarded once again in 2024 with a gold medal in the EcoVadis sustainability ranking. This means that we remain among the top five percent of the companies assessed. The products of our Bavarian natural juice press house were particularly convincing: The German Agricultural Society (DLG) bestowed prizes on eleven of our juices and nectars in 2024.

During the reporting period, our sustainability management took major strides forward. We have aligned our procurement strategy with the global challenges of ethical business practices and briefed our suppliers accordingly. The recording of Scope 3 emissions has been further expanded and we now have a comprehensive understanding of our climate impact.

Throughout the Valensina Group, we attach great importance to transparency, including in product labeling. In 2024, for example, we reduced packaging sizes so that we can continue to offer 100% juice in spite of rising raw material prices. We openly communicated the price increase to our customers and reversed it in 2025 once commodity prices had stabilized.

We are pleased to report that the number of our employees increased slightly during the reporting period, in spite of the shortage of skilled workers in our industry.

The next sustainability report will probably no longer be based on the GRI standards, but on the new European sustainability legislation (CSRD). We will focus on additional topics, in particular water consumption and biodiversity at our raw material suppliers.

As a medium-sized company active in a global market environment, we face particular challenges. We are confident, however, that our focus on sustainability is the right course going forward.

We would like to thank all our employees, our customers and our suppliers for their trust-based cooperation and joint support along the way.

Yours sincerely,



Tino Mocken

Managing Director  
Marketing, Sales, HR,  
Legal Affairs, Wolfra



Felix Müller

Managing Director  
Finance and Accounting,  
Controlling, IT, Production,  
Logistics, Copacking,  
Wolfra



Björn Vieten

Managing Director CSR,  
Procurement, Research &  
Development, Business  
Development, Quality  
management and quality  
assurance



## The Valensina Group

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# The Valensina Group



We are a family business operating successfully in a challenging market environment.

Headquartered in Mönchengladbach, the Valensina Group is an owner-managed company. In the reporting period, we employed just under 400 people at three locations in Germany. We are one of Germany's leading fruit juice companies. Our core range includes fruit juices from concentrate as well as direct juices, nectars and fruit juice drinks in the chilled and non-chilled segment. Long years of experience and ongoing investments in our plants guarantee our success.

The Valensina Group's head office distributes the HITCHCOCK and Valensina brands, which are produced in its own plants or by third-party bottlers. At the same time, we also produce private labels for national and international food retail customers at our

production sites in Mönchengladbach, Vechta and Erding. Moreover, we also work for well-known beverage brands in the area of contract filling (co-packing).

At the Erding site, our Wolfra Bayerische Natursaft Kelterei GmbH produces and sells the regional Wolfra brand in particular, with contract bottling of other beverages such as spritzers, lemonades and iced teas rounding off the range of services.

In 2025, we acquired the wine spritzer and mulled wine producer Winzz GmbH in Albaching, details of which will be disclosed in the next report. Once again in 2025 the Valensina Group featured in the TOP 100 innovation competition. The award acknowledges particularly innovative medium-sized companies.



## Our corporate strategy

As a company, we have made a conscious decision to constantly question and rethink ourselves. On the one hand, to assess and examine our relevance for society and for customers. And at the same time, to develop a concrete idea of how we want to shape the future. In the course of our intensive strategy process, we therefore realigned our vision and mission and communicated them in November 2025.

### Our Vision

**Gripping ideas for genuine taste.  
Us. Together.**

### Our Mission

**Us. Together.  
For Brands. For People. For Tomorrow.**

#### For Brands

Brands are our passion and our pride – we bring them to life and successfully build them into something more than just juice. Our passion and focus move the company forward as we meet customer needs now and in the future.

#### For People

United by our values, we work as one to innovate, grow, and build a future that lasts..

#### For Tomorrow


Dynamic thinking and fresh investments fuel our continued success. We're innovative and diverse in our approach – open, courageous, and reaching new heights.

**Valensina Gruppe** 

Our lives, our work and our sector are all driven by speed and constant change. To be able to play at the forefield, you need something that is unaffected by this. Not fast-moving and interchangeable, not transient. It takes something to give our “together” a common understanding of our daily interactions. Our fundamental virtues have remained unchanged since 2021.

These **values** fuel our daily work. They're the key to our success.  
**Us.Together!**



**Valensina Gruppe** 

## Products and markets

The Valensina Group most notably produces premium fruit juices, nectars, juice drinks, and spirits. We produce and market these products under our own brand names, as well as supplying private label products and copacking services for prominent brand manufacturers and other food & drink retailers.

We produce products requiring refrigeration at our Mönchengladbach plant, while our factory in Vechta produces juices, nectars, and other drinks for the ambient segment, i.e. products that can be stored at room temperature. Both factories package the majority of their drinks in single-use PET bottles. The ambient products, including alcoholic drinks, produced at our factory in Erding are packaged using glass bottles (both single-use and reusable).



These are the values that our brands stand for:





Countries supplied in 2023/24



Our business operations can be divided into five areas: our three brands – HITCHCOCK, Valensina, and Wolfra – plus our copacking services and private label products. All five areas are closely interconnected and all are of equal importance for our business. Our markets are spread throughout Europe, with around 50% of this turnover generated by our own brands.

The Valensina Group is a member of the German Federation of Food & Drink Industries (BVE) and our CEO, Tino Mocken, is one of the federation’s board members. We are also members of the Association of the German Fruit Juice Industry (VdF), SGF International e.V., and the Sustainable Juice Platform, a sustainability initiative run by the European Fruit Juice Association (AIJN).

## Business development and brand strategy

We are observing increasing market polarization. On the one hand, demand is growing for higher-quality products up to the premium segment - manufacturer brands such as HITCHCOCK, Valensina and Wolfra are benefiting from this trend. On the other hand, price sensitivity is rising significantly in certain consumer groups. We have prepared ourselves for both trends.

The years 2023 and 2024 were characterized by poor orange harvests, particularly in Brazil and the USA. This led to limited availability and significant price increases for raw materials. The Valensina Group was able to compensate for the effects of this tense market situation through a targeted multi-supplier strategy, as well as by expanding its portfolio in fruit juice-related segments.

The declining harvests are mainly due to advancing climate change and the spread of the “citrus greening” plant disease. Brazil, the most important country of origin of our oranges, is particularly impacted. The El Niño weather phenomenon, high temperatures and persistent water shortages have been stressing the citrus belt there for years, resulting in lower fruit yields per tree. At the same time, citrus greening is destroying entire plantations. This combination results in declining yields and further price increases.

As the orange is the trademark of the Valensina Group we have examined how to respond to the situation. Our priority was to continue to have 100% orange juice in our range. However, we have had to significantly increase the price of our “Orange” and “Mild Orange” fruit juices to compensate for this and now offer these beverages in 700 ml bottles instead of the previous 1-liter bottles. Further information about this can be found in the ‘Our supply chain’ section of this report.

At the same time, the Valensina Group has broadened its strategy and added product categories such as iced tea and soft drinks to its portfolio – products with a lower fruit content that are addressing a growing market segment. The demand for beverages with a reduced fruit content - such as fruit juice drinks or spritzers - is also continuing to expand - due to an increasing consumer trend towards lower sugar consumption.

In 2022, we launched an online store for the HITCHCOCK premium brand, which is developing positively. We have since added further sets, such as a seasonal Christmas set and turnover increased further in 2024.

### Turnover in the period 2021–2024 (in € thousand)

2021	2022	2023	2024
225,888	231,473	238,680	272,321



In the B2B sector, the demands and requirements made on sustainability remain high. Business customers are calling for climate-neutral products, traceable origin information and certification in line with recognized sustainability standards. Packaging is required to exhibit properties that extend well beyond the legal requirements – especially when it comes to the proportion of recycled PET (rPET). At the Valensina Group, we are able to meet all these requirements, which is an impressive achievement for a relatively small company such as ours.

In the end consumer market, however, interest in sustainability and health issues receded further into the background during the reporting period. Instead, price and availability were the main factors determining purchasing behavior.

Although the Valensina Group's sales volumes declined due to higher prices in the orange segment, turnover increased. In 2023, the Valensina Group's turnover stood at TEUR 238,680, and totaled TEUR 272,321 in 2024.

## Corporate structure and management

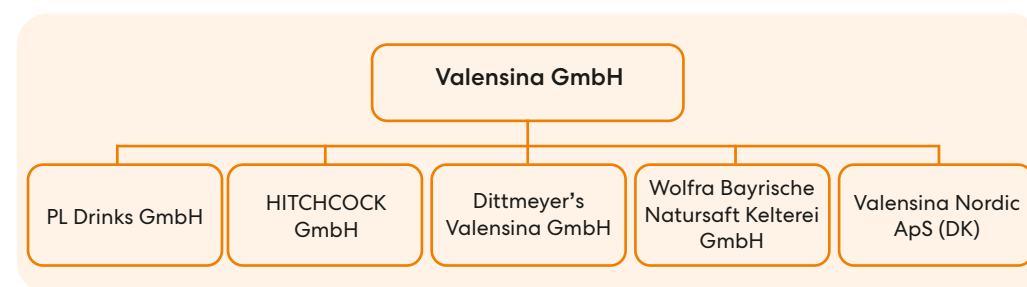
Valensina is a limited liability company (GmbH) under German law. In recent years, the Thai Singha Europe Group has held a 50 percent stake in Valensina. Valensina's managing directors Tino Mocken and Felix Müller bought back this share in March 2024 as part of a management buy-out. Tino Mocken now holds 90 percent of the shares in our long-established family business, while Felix Müller, who has been Managing Director for many years, holds 10 percent.

In line with our consolidated financial statement for 2024, this sustainability report for the Valensina Group covers all our consolidated companies. Valensina Nordic ApS is not included in the figures, since this entity serves simply as a sales address to ensure compliance with specific Danish legislation concerning deposit return schemes. In March 2025, we acquired a majority stake in the wine spritzer and mulled wine producer Winzz GmbH, although this is not yet reflected in this sustainability report.

Valensina GmbH, with its headquarters in Mönchengladbach, manages all of the group's subsidiaries, as well as the procurement of key raw ingredients and our central accounting functions.

The Valensina Group is managed by the Management Board. It is the highest controlling body and reports to the Advisory Board, which has only performed an advisory function since the buy-out of the Singha Group.

The management of the Valensina Group consists of Tino Mocken, who is also the main shareholder, Felix Müller and – since January 2025 – Björn Vieten, who will also be responsible for the sustainability area in the future.



Consequently, the Management Board is staffed with professionals who can be expected to work towards the preservation and long-term existence of the company and take appropriate account of sustainability aspects as part of their corporate responsibility. All members are under contract.

To date, the members of the Management Board and other senior managers have not been assessed on their sustainability performance nor remunerated on this basis. Members of the Management Board and other senior managers receive a basic salary plus other variable components, which are performance-based and, in part, linked to the group's operating result. Severance pay – and any potential repayments – are decided on a case-by-case basis.

The Valensina Group offers a company pension scheme, which is open to all employees should they wish to join.

## Our sustainability strategy

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## Our sustainability strategy



We are continuously developing and refining our sustainability strategy. To this end, we regularly exchange information with stakeholders.

This report reflects the material topics of the Valensina Group determined in 2018/2019 and updated in 2023 and covers the 2023 and 2024 financial years. We disclose our information with reference to the international GRI standards. The report covers all production locations, as well as the headquarters of the Valensina Group, and has not been externally audited. The emissions figures were calculated by Climate Partner.



**Siham El Hamdi**  
CSR Manager

At Valensina, sustainability is firmly anchored in our daily interactions and in our business. In the past two years, the workforce has continued to work on the sustainable orientation of our company. A particular focus was on identifying the challenges of fair supply chains for our specific global business in terms of contents, deriving requirements from them and communicating our expectations to suppliers. During the reporting period, we developed a supplier code of conduct and a supplier self-assessment that we can be rightly proud of.

## Materiality analysis

Employees from various divisions and hierarchy levels came together in workshops in 2018/2019 to determine the key topics; an update was carried out at the beginning of 2023. In 2019, they decided to put the focus on the Valensina Group's stakeholders across its value chain. The key stakeholders for the Valensina Group were identified as B2B customers, end consumers, employees, suppliers, and the general public. Representatives from each of these groups were then requested to complete a sustainability survey, and the findings from the survey were incorporated into our materiality analysis. In addition, the workshop participants analyzed the impacts of the Valensina Group's operations, the sociopolitical context, our competitors' actions, and future trends. The GRI sector publication "GRI Food Processing", which provides guidance for the food sector, was also taken into account. In a final step, our CSR manager worked together with the sustainability agency triple innova GmbH to prioritize our material topics before presenting them to the Management Board for approval. This report refers to this materiality analysis.

At the end of 2024, we carried out a new materiality analysis in accordance with the requirements of the European CSRD legislation, which was originally intended to apply to the Valensina Group as from the 2025 financial year. Although the date of the first-time application of the CSRD has been postponed by two years and it is currently unclear whether Valensina will be required to report at all, we are continuing to work on meeting the requirements and using the findings for the strategic development of our company. Among other things, we will be working on and reporting on aspects of water consumption and biodiversity at our international suppliers in future. We will publish details in the upcoming sustainability report.

The entire management team of the Valensina Group is involved in developing the sustainability strategy. The CSR manager is in regular contact with the management and keeps them informed on relevant internal and external matters.



### Gold medal awarded by EcoVadis Valensina ranks among the top 5 percent

As in previous years, the Valensina Group was once again awarded a gold medal in the 2024 EcoVadis sustainability ranking. This positions Valensina among the top 5 percent of the companies assessed. The ranking comprises 21 sustainability criteria on the core topics of the environment, labor and human rights, ethics and sustainable procurement.

We are committed to further improving our sustainability practices and developing new initiatives in order to ensure positive repercussions for our communities and the environment.



### Member of the Alliance for Biodiversity

Since 2024, the Valensina Group has been a member of the Alliance for Biodiversity of the IHK Mittlerer Niederrhein. The alliance is committed to ecologically responsible corporate governance. Members have recognized the importance of biodiversity for sustainable economic development and are committed to protecting it. The aim is to raise awareness of biodiversity in the economy and promote sustainable action. The work of the alliance is based on jointly developed guidelines.

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IHK Mittlerer Niederrhein.







As well as complying with the GRI standards, our material topics also align with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) published by the UN. In particular, we believe we have an important role to play in the following three areas:

**Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and humane work for all**

The Valensina Group wishes to make an overwhelmingly positive contribution towards SDG 8 as both an employer and a customer. We support our employees and take our responsibilities across all stages of our supply chain very seriously.

**Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

We understand that our extensive use of packaging has a negative impact in terms of SDG 12. We are seeking to reduce this impact by optimizing our products in partnership with our customers.

**Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

The Valensina Group is taking action to reduce its emissions, particularly at its production locations. In 2022, we set ourselves a science-based emissions reduction target, calculated in line with the methodology proposed by the Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi). We are also in the process of recording our scope 3 emissions, with the aim of identifying future actions in this area.

## Dialog with stakeholders

We are continuously developing and refining our sustainability strategy. Stakeholder feedback plays an important role here. Our day-to-day business interactions provide a vital opportunity to understand their concerns, and we also engage in targeted discussions with our networks and follow developments in the media.

We maintain an active dialog with all our key stakeholders through a wide variety of channels.

### B2B customers

Our communication lines with our B2B customers are always open. The key account managers in particular are responsible for this. The CSR manager is also responsible for sustainability issues. During the reporting period, we were increasingly in contact on issues pertaining to German supply chain legislation and how the Valensina Group implements the demands and requirements along its supply chain. In the years 2023/2024, we developed a respective strategy and created a Supplier Code of Conduct, among other things. Further information about this can be found in the 'Our supply chain' section of this report. The EcoVadis scorecard for the Valensina Group is also made available to any customers interested in learning more about our sustainability efforts.

### End consumers and the general public

Our website is our main point of contact with end consumers and the general public. In 2024, we also ran a survey on the topic of fruit juice. Surveys such as this provide us with important information about market trends.

### Employees

We strive for a feedback culture that works across hierarchical levels and train our managers with this in mind. Annual development meetings are held with all employees. We promote the exchange of information between employees and the flow of information within the Group by way of an internal blog. The Valensina Group has a complaints procedure in place that is accessible to all employees.

### Suppliers

Contact with our suppliers is especially maintained at the point of purchase. Our sustainability manager works together with suppliers to address sustainability topics, including promoting exchange revolving around the EcoVadis ratings. During the reporting period, we developed a Code of Conduct for suppliers and a new questionnaire for supplier self-disclosure. We have requested our suppliers to rate themselves on the EcoVadis portal. All of this also takes account of our customers' wishes for supply chain transparency. Further information about this can be found in the 'Our supply chain' section of this report.

### Other

During the reporting period, we engaged in discussions with certification bodies (Rainforest Alliance), as well as sector colleagues and associations (notably the Sustainable Juice Platform and AIJN Sustainability Expert Group).





## Our products

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## Product development



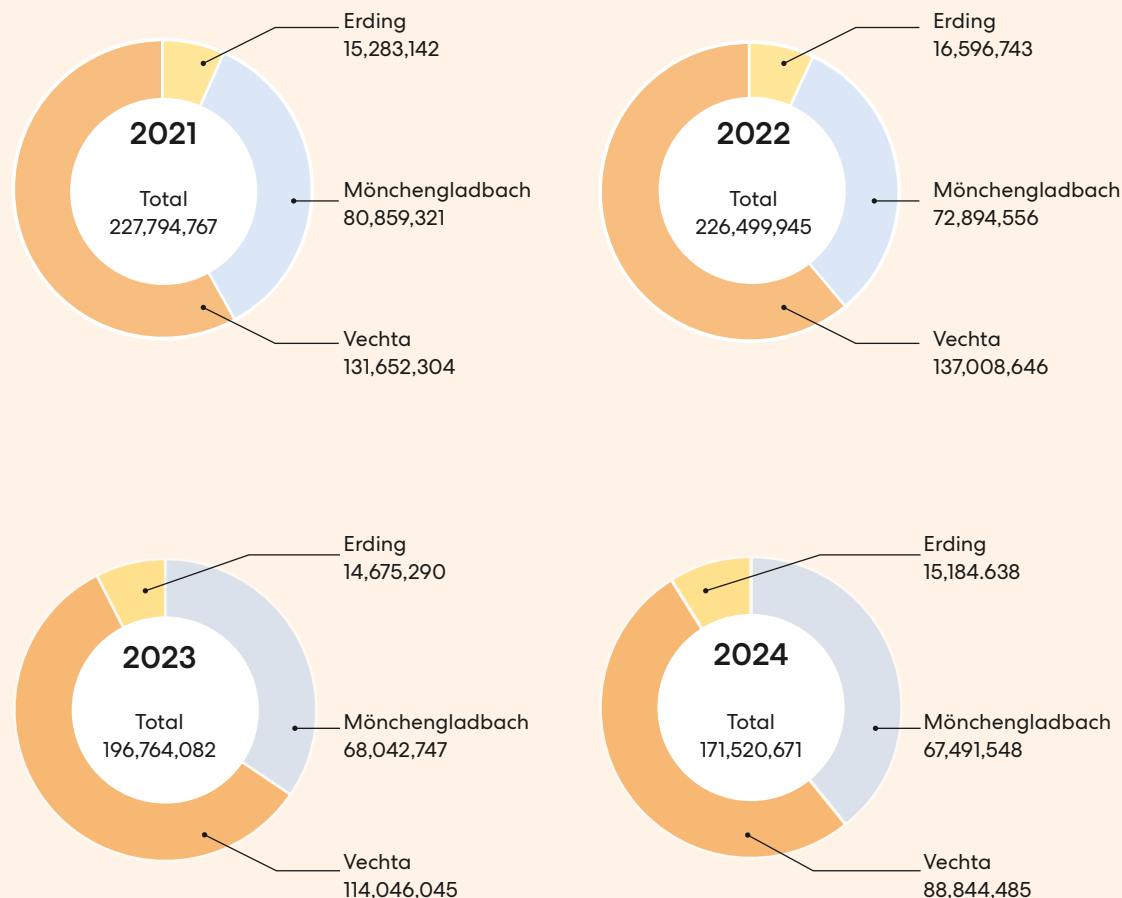
The Valensina Group's strengths lie in its product development work, flexible filling systems, and the high quality of our work.

Since February 2024, Valensina has been producing exclusively vegan fruit juices and nectars. In 2023 and 2024 a number of our products were awarded by the German Agricultural Society (DLG) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Home Affairs (BMLEH), most notably our Wolfra juices.

## Product development

With a per capita consumption of 28 liters of fruit juice and fruit nectar per year, Germany ranks as the world champion. Orange juice concentrate was in short supply during the reporting period, however, and prices were correspondingly high. As described above, this was particularly due to poor harvests in Brazil. Partly due to this bottleneck, Valensina has expanded its product portfolio to include two beverage categories that have a low fruit juice content while being particularly popular on the market: lemonade and iced tea. The Valensina "SaftLimos" have a fruit juice content of up to 18 percent, in connection with a sugar content reduced to around 4g/100 ml. Our iced tea has a fruit content of 5 percent. Since 2025, we have also been offering energy drinks ("Vaboo") with 6 percent fruit and 9.6 to 10 percent sugar. We develop new products internally or in response to customer inquiries.

Product volumes (in liters)



In the case of complex products, feasibility studies and test production runs form an important part of the development process. Sensory training courses for employees have been held at our Mönchengladbach site since 2023. The training courses sharpen employees' perception, assessment skills and product understanding and create enhanced quality awareness. Expansion to other locations is planned.

In order to help us in finding even more creative product ideas and encouraging all members of staff to get involved, we also introduced a new app in 2022 (created specifically for us) in MS-Teams, which employees can use to submit suggestions related to our products, business operations, and customers. If proposals achieve at least three out of five stars in the internal evaluation, we draw up a rough concept for possible implementation.

## Filling techniques

Each of our locations specializes in different filling techniques: Mönchengladbach is set up for ultra-clean filling, Vechta for cold aseptic filling, and Erding for hot filling.

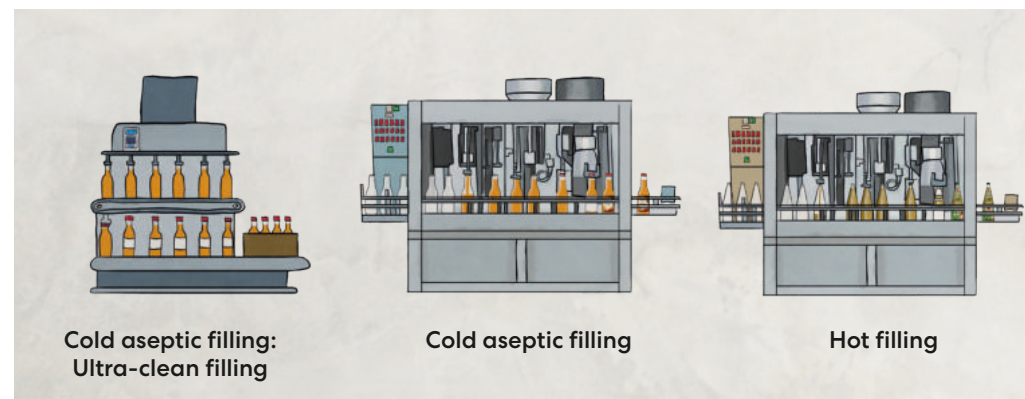
We produce chilled products in Mönchengladbach. These chilled products are mainly premium juices not from concentrate, which are pressed in their country of origin, pasteurized, and transported chilled to our facilities, where they are heated very briefly in order to kill off any microorganisms. When it comes to flavor, these juices are top of the range. A problematic aspect is the fact that the cold chain, which runs right through from the place of origin to the consumer, is very energy intensive. We also press citrus fruits in Mönchengladbach and process the juice directly on site. The products are packaged in PET bottles, drinks cartons, and HDPE jerry cans.

Our Vechta factory processes by far the highest product volumes of any of our locations. This is where we produce our ambient products, i.e. products that can be stored at room temperature. The juices are pressed in the country of origin, concentrated to around a fifth of their original volume, chilled and transported to us. We then reconstitute the juice by diluting the concentrate with specially treated water from our own wells and adding fruit juice extracts, before bottling the juice ready for market. These products


have no less nutritional value than their chilled counterparts and have a significantly longer storage life. Our Vechta factory processes large product volumes and often produces a single product for several days at a time. This production set-up is highly efficient as it eliminates the need to continuously reconfigure the filling lines. The products from our Vechta factory are packaged in PET bottles, drinks cartons, and bag-in-box packaging.

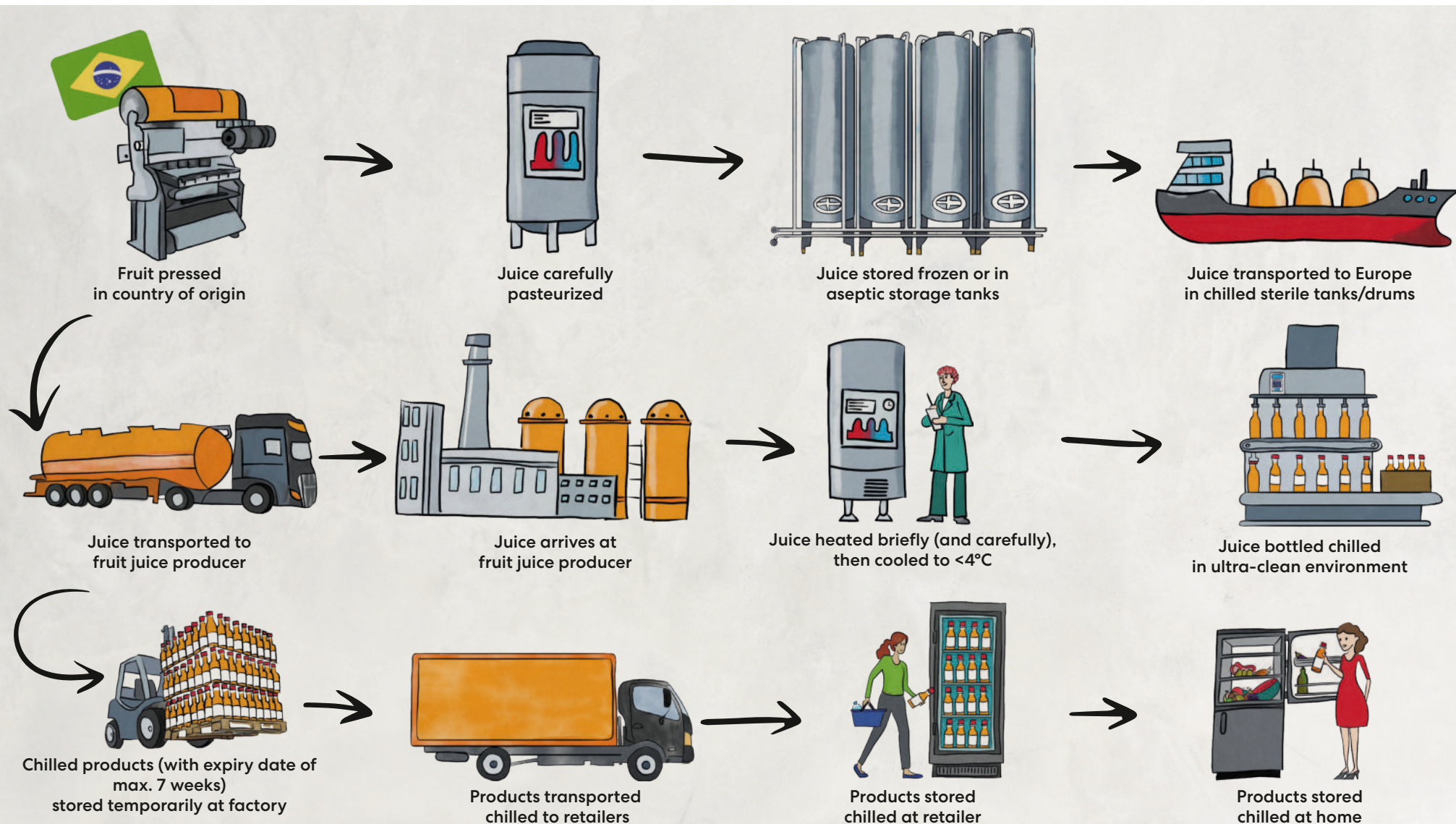
Our factory in Erding specializes in hot filling and its products are primarily destined for customers in the hospitality and retail sectors. Customers come most notably from the catering and retail sectors. The factory presses apples and rhubarb from small-scale farmers and private individuals in the local region, as well as berries such as sea-buckthorn, and combines these with other raw ingredients from further afield. The resulting products serve a very local market and are always packaged in glass bottles. Demand for organic juices is also especially high in this market. In the reporting period we counted 13 organic products in our range, eight of which we market under the Wolfra brand. Wolfra operates one of the few wine presses in Germany that is capable of processing rhubarb.

Our plants are not only producing juices for our own and private labels, but are also active in the co-packing sector. This means that we purchase raw materials for our customers or process their raw materials, such as iced tea and alcoholic beverages.





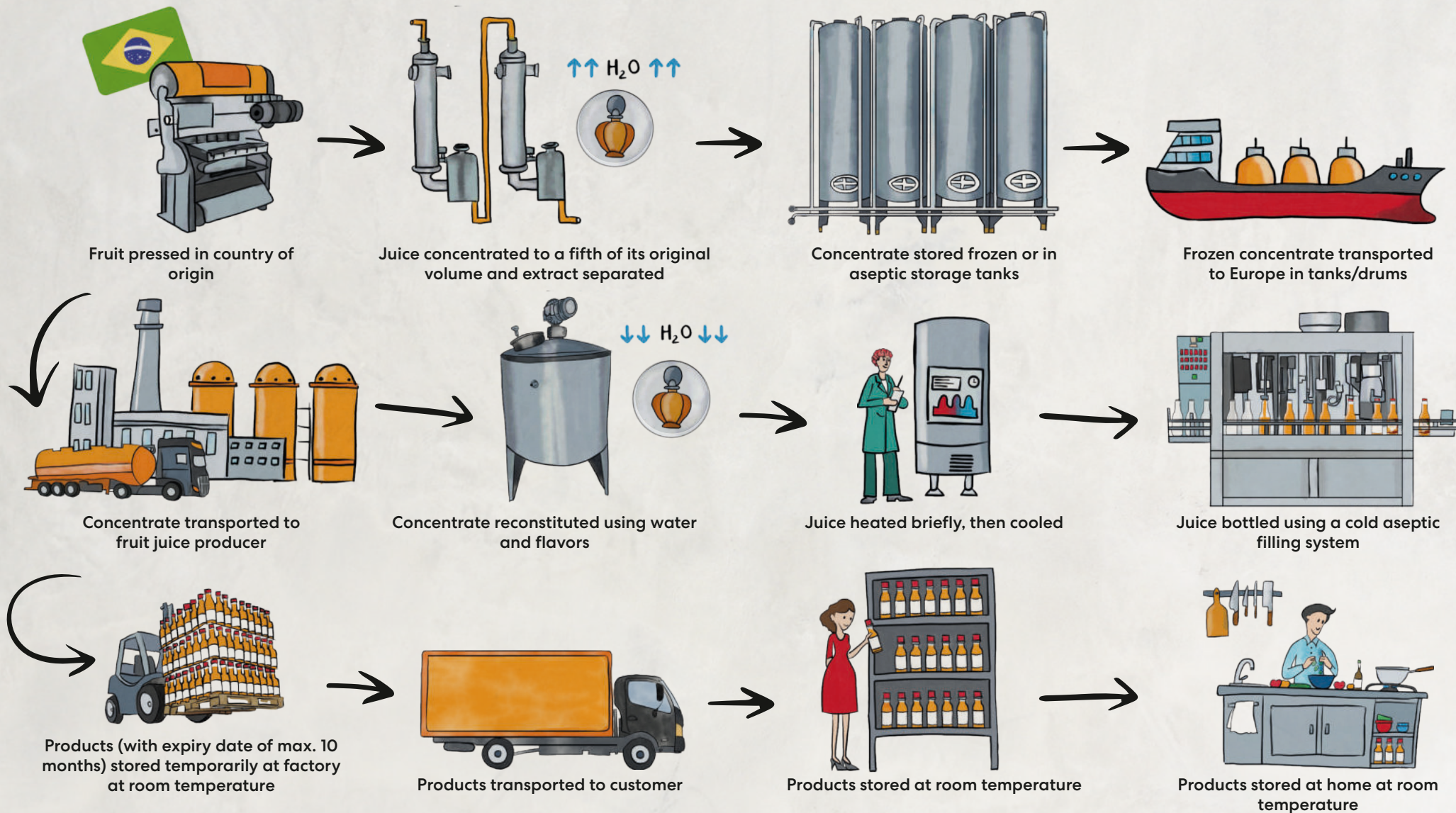
 **Ultra-clean filling, Mönchengladbach**  
In this technique, the raw materials are usually processed very quickly. After pasteurization, the product is cooled to around 4°C and then bottled in an ultra-clean environment.





### Cold aseptic filling, Vechta

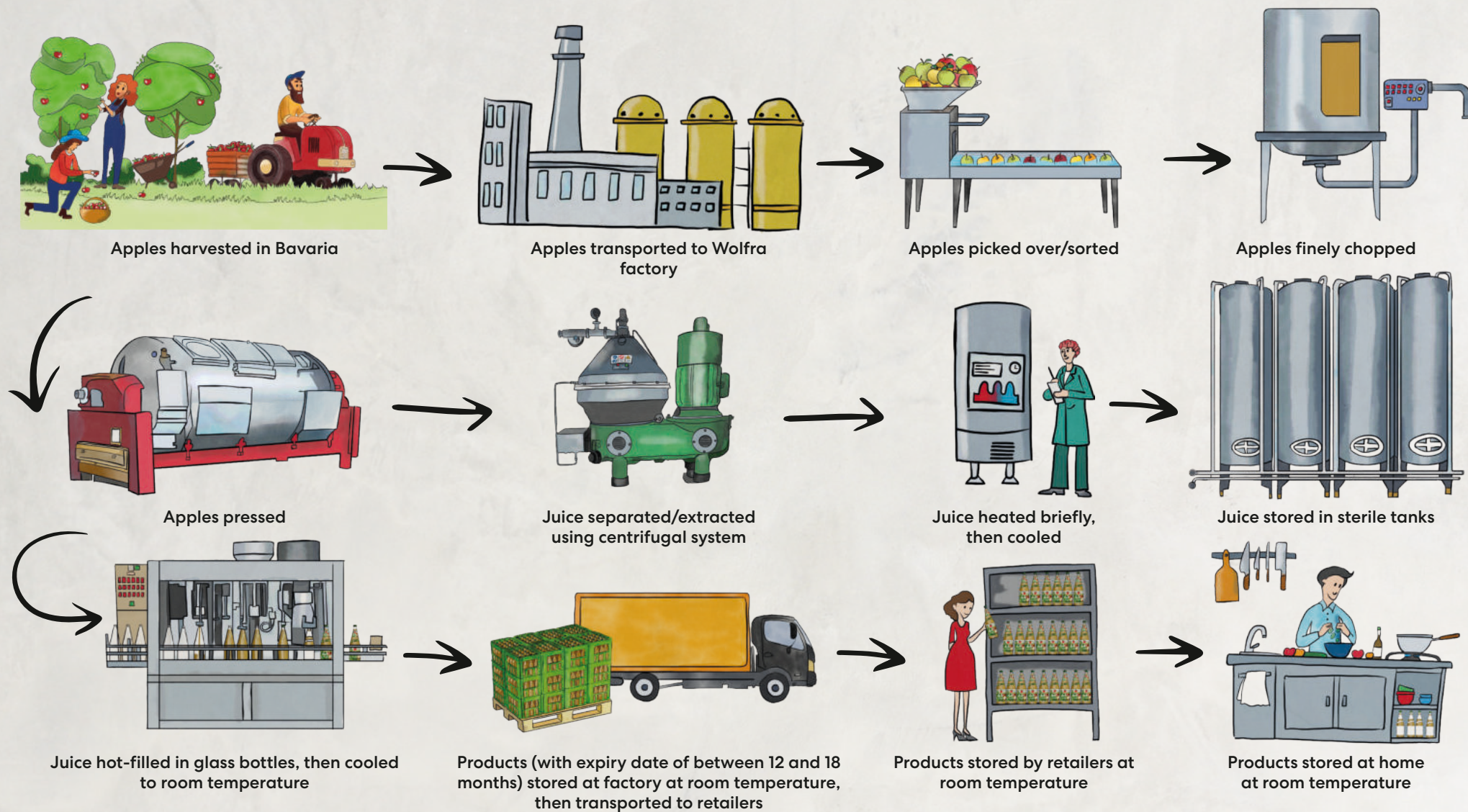
With this technique, the drinks are bottled under sterile conditions at around 20°C. The products do not need to be chilled and can be stored for up to 10 months.





### Hot filling, Erding

Among other products, our Wolfra factory in Erding processes locally grown apples and rhubarb, and packages its products in glass bottles.





## Quality

It's extremely important to us that our products are safe and meet the same consistently high standards at all times. We maintain specifications for every one of our raw ingredients, intermediate products, end products, and packaging items, which set out the components and composition of each product, as well as the physical, sensory, chemical, and microbiological parameters it must meet. Also included is information about legislative requirements, handling methods, packaging, shelf life, and storage and transport conditions.

In order to ensure compliance with these specifications, we maintain and document strict internal quality control checks at every stage in the production process, from the procurement of our raw ingredients and packaging materials all the way through to the delivery of the finished products to our customers. Our raw ingredients and primary packaging materials also undergo regular inspections by external organizations.

Our IFS Certification (International Food Standard) in particular provides confirmation of the quality and authenticity of our products. All of our factories are certified to the IFS Higher Level – the most important quality and food safety standard for suppliers in the food & drink industry. IFS certified companies must also demonstrate that they have effective and proven mechanisms in place to prevent food fraud.

In addition, the Valensina Group is part of the voluntary self-regulation system of SGF (Sure Global Fair) and wherever possible sources its raw ingredients from SGF approved suppliers. The SGF is an institution that examines and ensures the authenticity of finished and semi-finished products worldwide. This prevents unauthorized additives or the adulteration of juices. Our sites also undergo pre-arranged audits as well as un-arranged audits and spot checks by both our customers and food regulators.

In order to further reduce the risks and costs of potential contamination, we have introduced a new laboratory information and management system (LIMS), which has already been implemented in Vechta and is currently being implemented in Mönchengladbach and Erding. This software records the data from our samples, tests and measurements and analyzes this information in line with specifications.

## Our certifications

	Mönchengladbach	Vechta	Erding
IFS	✓	✓	✓
Bio	✓	✓	✓
Rainforest Alliance	✓	✓	
ISO 50001	✓	✓	✓
SMETA		✓	
Kosher			✓

## Food Safety Culture

Our employees are experts at what they do. All of our people undergo training that is of central significance for the production of high quality and safe food products.



HACCP\*



Infection control



Food hygiene



Food defense



Food fraud

\*Hazard analysis and critical control points for the food & drink industry

## Product information

The EU regulation on the provision of food information to consumers is one of the most important pieces of consumer protection legislation, and regulates the mandatory labeling of all foodstuffs by law. This includes the information that must appear, by law, on the label of every food and drinks product, including the name of the food, the list of ingredients, the expiry date, the quantities of ingredients, the name and address of the manufacturer/packer/seller, and information about any ingredients that may cause allergies or intolerances.

In addition to these requirements, there are also a large number of other product labels, notably sustainability labels, that we and our customers value.

All products from the Valensina Group meet the food labeling standards required by law. In the case of organic products, we also indicate the region of origin.

Since 2024, we have been opting for exclusively vegan raw materials for Valensina and Hitchcock products. In order to assist our customers in choosing the right products for them, our juices carry either the ProVeg label or our own label indicating that they are suitable for vegans or vegetarians. Depending on our customers' specific requirements, the labels for our private label products also include information about the proportion of recycled PET in the packaging, waste sorting information, or an eco-score.

Many of the Valensina Group orange juices source raw materials that are Rainforest Alliance certified. This certification is designed to ensure that minimum social, economic, and ecological standards are upheld in the production of agricultural products, particularly in the Global South. Demand from our retail partners has increased significantly in recent years. We produced up to 37 certified articles in the reporting period. Currently, only a small number of our products are certified in line with the EU regulation on organic production and labeling of organic products.



## Transparent labeling

We believe that our product labels must be clearly comprehensible, transparent, and honest. This applies to both our own brands and those of our B2B customers, which is why we provide all our customers with detailed labeling recommendations. The information on the product labels should provide end consumers with guidance and assist them in their purchasing decisions.

In response to the rise in raw material prices, more and more manufacturers reduced the fruit juice content of their brands or trimmed down pack sizes without providing consumers with sufficient information during the reporting period. The consumer advice center has rightly complained about a lack of transparency. Valensina has also been offering its “Orange” and “Mild Orange” fruit juice varieties in 700 ml bottles since 2024 – instead of the previous 1-liter bottles – and at the same price. However, we communicated the price increase transparently. The bottles were visibly slimmer and smaller, and we prominently pointed out the reduced content on the label. On the back, we explained the reasons for the price increase and provided further information by way of the QR code. We also promised our customers that we would reverse the price increase as soon as the market situation improved.

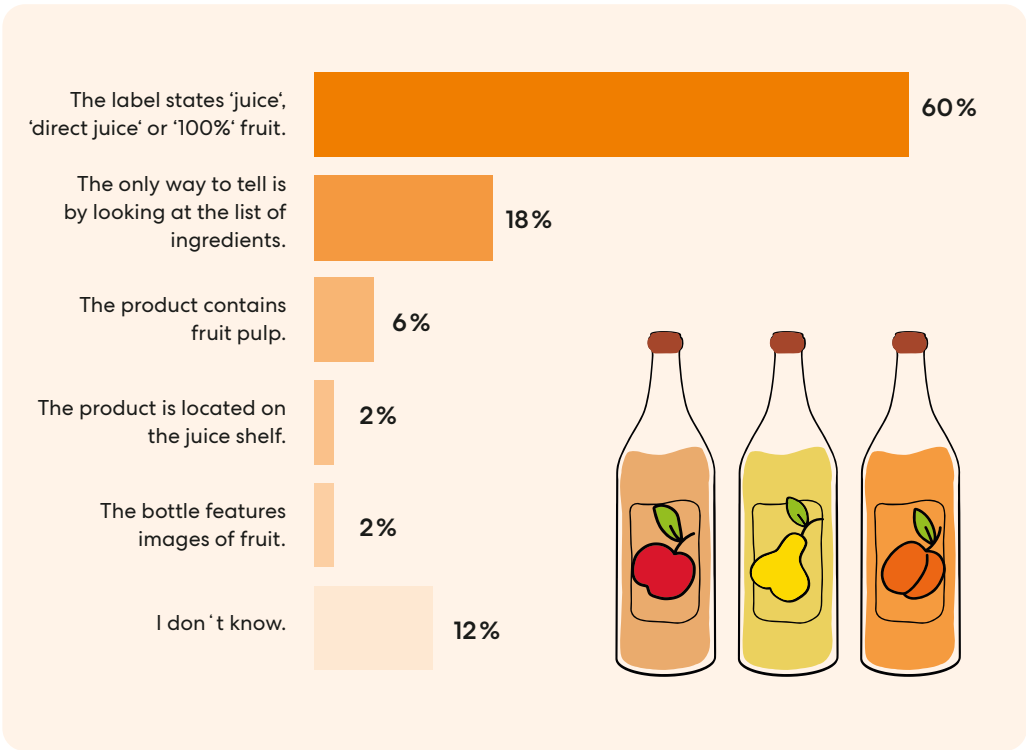
### Valensina keeps its promise

Now that the situation on the orange market has stabilized, the “Orange” and “Mild Orange” juices will once again be available in 1-litre bottles as from mid-October 2025 instead of 700 ml bottles – while the price will remain the same. In this way, Valensina is keeping its promise to reverse the price increase from 2024 as soon as the market has stabilized.

No big surprise that Valensina was awarded the “German Customer award 2025/26” in the customer satisfaction, quality and price/performance categories.

During the reporting period, we carried out a survey on the topic of fruit juice, which was geared, among other things, to revealing information gaps among consumers. In spite of some assistance, only 60 percent of respondents were able to name the difference between fruit juice, fruit nectar and fruit juice drink. We strive for transparency by explaining the differences between the qualities on our website and by clearly indicating our qualities on the front of packaging and bottle labels.

### How can you identify 100% fruit juice?





## Complaint management

The correct labeling of our products and the complete and precise declaration of ingredients are a matter of course for us. Any doubts or complaints raised by end consumers, B2B customers, or the authorities are therefore carefully recorded and systematically analyzed.

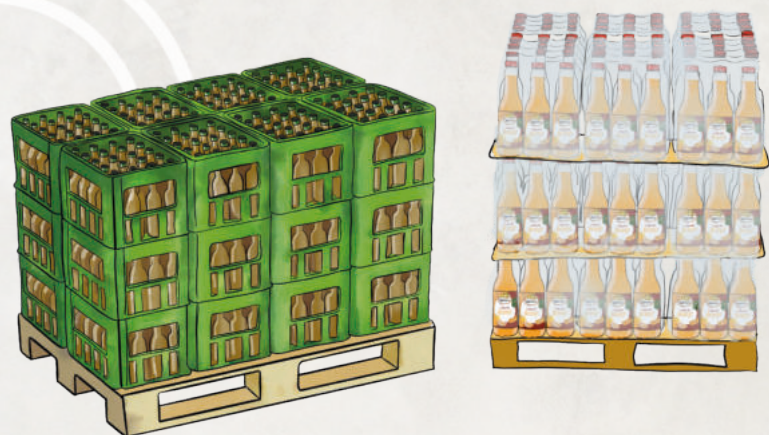
We differentiate between sales-related and quality-related complaints: The first covers any complaints arising from the sales process, such as pricing variations, incorrect order volumes, or delivery delays. Quality-related complaints are forwarded by Sales to Quality Management and relate to product specifics such as deviating sensory properties, microbiological spoilage, foreign bodies or labeling defects.

In the case of declaration complaints, we check labels, formulas, recipes and declaration recommendations for their compliance with the Food Information Regulation (FIR), customer-specific style guides, label donor requirements and other applicable regulations. As required, we consult laboratory analyses - for example to check reference quantities of certain ingredients. If the complaint proves to be justified, we initiate appropriate corrective measures, inform the stakeholder concerned of the results and measures and ensure appropriate compensation.

Complaints in the declaration and product labeling area occur only sporadically. Typical cases concern, for example, faulty coding, adjustments to sales descriptions or the placement of legally required information on the label.

No justified complaints were identified in the reporting period. There were no violations of applicable food labeling laws.





## Our packaging

28 Recycling and recyclates

28 Materials

## Our packaging



Optimizing plastic packaging and reducing the use of materials feature among the Valensina Group's core competencies.

The Valensina Group uses different materials and material forms for primary and secondary packaging. As plastic packaging in particular is used for filling and distribution, we focus primarily on the respective improvements.

Our measures are geared to the applicable European and German packaging legislation. In July 2024, the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive came into force, which stipulates, among other things, that caps must be firmly attached to disposable bottles. The Valensina Group has been making this change incrementally since 2023.

## Recycling and recyclates

As from 2025, an average recycle content of at least 25 percent in disposable PET bottles will be mandatory – a requirement we are already fully complying with. In view of the EU target of ensuring that all packaging is recyclable by 2030, we tested and assessed the recyclability of our packaging in accordance with the current minimum standard of the Stiftung Zentrale Stelle Verpackungsregister (ZSVR - Central Agency Packaging Register Foundation) during the reporting period. The major share of our packaging is 92 to 99 percent recyclable. Packaging with certain barriers is the exception, whereby the respective repercussions on PET bottle recycling have not yet been finally clarified.



### Key factors for recyclability (ZSVR)

- The necessary sorting and recycling infrastructure is available to produce a quality recycled end product.
- The packaging can be sorted and the different components separated if necessary.
- The packaging contains no components or materials that could hamper the recycling process.

A product with a recycled content of 50 percent has been used as shrink film since 2023. Since 2024, we have also discontinued the use of HDPE canisters and have instead opted for 2-liter PET bottles that are integrated into the deposit system.

## Materials

By far the largest share of our packaging is made of plastic. Our Vechta factory in particular is heavily reliant on plastic packaging – such as PET bottles, drinks cartons, and bag-in-box packaging – for its ambient products. In addition, we also use films for bundling, for example as six packs, and for securing pallets for transportation.

Due to the fact that plastics are predominantly made from fossil raw materials entailing energy-intensive production and recycling, we welcome the mandatory deposit on disposable plastic bottles for fruit juices and nectars introduced in 2022. This helps to increase collection and recycling rates and close the material cycle of PET bottles more effectively. In terms of weight, 27% of our packaging materials are PET containers, of which 46% are made from recycled material (rPET).



As from 2025, the average recycled content of PET packaging must stand at a minimum of 25% - in terms of the packaging unit consisting of bottle, cap and label. Many customers, however, require a share of between 30 and 100 percent rPET. At the same time, other market players are also opting for the use of this secondary raw material, for example for the production of detergent bottles or textiles, resulting in material shortages. Consequently, we will not be able to achieve our original goal of achieving a recycled content of at least 50% in all PET bottles from 2025. We now use preforms for all PET containers, which we blow in-house to reduce transport emissions and costs. Since the end of 2024, we have also had a blowing machine in place for two-liter bottles.

The share of glass bottles has advanced and amounted to around 29% in the reporting period. The recycled glass content stands at between 50 and 90 percent, depending on the color and supplier.

Around 19% of our packaging is made from paper, paperboard, and cardboard, i.e. renewable raw materials. In most cases, these materials are used for secondary packaging, such as boxes and display materials, and contain around 92% recycled content. We do not consider our composite drinks cartons to be made from renewable raw materials, since the cardboard content is combined with other materials in the manufacturing process.

#### Our packaging by weight (kg)\*

Packaging	Type of material	2021	2022	2023	2024
Bottles	Glass**	3,151,955	2,847,040	3,915,559	3,574,431
Jerry cans (HDPE)	Plastic	454,458	394,541	153,901	30,591
Bottles (PET)	Plastic	0	0	0	0
Bottles (rPET 30 %)	Plastic	0	50,388	255,782	258,823
Preforms (PET)	Plastic	2,256,280	2,817,669	2,381,101	2,171,363
Preforms (rPET 30 %)	Plastic	0	0	0	336,678
Preforms (rPET 50 %)	Plastic	1,214,671	661,663	699,880	664,573
Preforms (rPET 100 %)	Plastic	1,344,484	1,197,561	1,076,052	1,242,164
Blanks	Composite material	1,263,570	1,220,901	915,466	711,945
Caps	Plastic	665,214	665,404	572,045	532,805
Caps	Tin	66,776	46,069	38,017	51,223
Caps	Aluminum	16,220	19,034	35,059	29,117
Labels	Paper	279,590	336,545	321,116	230,276
Labels	Plastic	74,430	69,964	56,492	92,711
Film, stretch wrap	Plastic	253,307	327,730	354,430	369,898
Handles	Plastic	20,130	21,231	18,650	16,017
Cardboard packaging	Paper/Paperboard/Cardboard	2,101,964	1,955,764	1,653,699	1,598,739
Other packaging	Paper/Paperboard/Cardboard	491,620	572,103	694,369	590,854
Other packaging	Plastic	45,145	53,261	52,471	47,607
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,699,814</b>	<b>13,256,868</b>	<b>13,194,089</b>	<b>12,549,815</b>

\* Packaging volumes listed include materials used for external producers.

\*\* Purchasing data only includes single-use bottles.

## Our supply chain

- 31 Social and environmental audits
- 32 Specifications for socio-ecological issues
- 33 Raw ingredients



## Our supply chain



We shape and design our procurement strategy with a view to the global challenges of ethical business.

The Valensina Group has a large number of suppliers. Our packaging, operating materials, equipment, services, and capital goods are sourced primarily from Germany and other European countries with a strong track record on employee rights and environmental protection. Our raw ingredients, however, come from all over world, including from countries with less well-established environmental and social standards. In these countries in particular, we believe it is our responsibility as a business to demand that our partners uphold ethical business standards, and to verify – to the best of our ability – that these standards are being implemented in practice.

Wherever possible, we purchase our raw ingredients from members of SGF (Sure Global Fair), an international organization that verifies the authenticity of both finished and intermediate products. All SGF members agree to abide by the Code of Business Conduct of the European Fruit Juice Association (AIJN). In addition, all of our major suppliers are members of the SGF's voluntary self-regulation system.

As before, we continue to source 97% of our orange juice and orange juice concentrate from Brazil, the world's largest exporter, where we work with the few large-scale producers. They then press the fruit and transport the juice/concentrate to Belgium or the Netherlands on their own ships. On arrival in Europe, the juice/concentrate is stored at the port terminal, before being transported to our facilities by delivery truck.

## Social and environmental audits

Our Brazilian suppliers also undergo a SMETA four-pillar audit. Developed by Sedex (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange), this process is designed to verify that all supply chain partners meet the requisite standards in terms of workers' rights, health and safety standards, environmental performance, and ethical business practices. Moreover, we also conduct our own social audits in Brazil. Together with the Head of Quality Management, the Sustainability Officer is responsible for this. In 2023 and 2025, we carried out audits at two of our suppliers respectively in each year. In 2025, we also visited subcontractor plantations and the impressions we gained were excellent.

We received no reports of any negative impacts within our supply chains during the reporting period.

### Sustainable supplier management

At the Valensina Group, the central procurement team takes primary responsibility for selecting and managing our suppliers. They are supported in this task by the operational procurement teams at each location, the quality management and research & development departments, and the CSR manager, who is responsible for improving our sustainability performance.

In addition, the group's purchasing activities are governed by our procurement strategy, which sets out the requirements for assessing suppliers, approving new business partners, and monitoring suppliers' sustainability performance.

In 2021, we introduced the EcoVadis supplier assessment system and we now ask all our suppliers with an annual turnover of €100,000 or more to register for this assessment. Each supplier is required to complete a detailed sustainability questionnaire and submit any relevant supporting documents and certifications. EcoVadis then assesses these



submissions alongside other information sources such as media reports, for example. In the case of any concerns about our suppliers, we are informed immediately. This was not the case in the reporting period. Valensina itself took gold in the Ecovadis Ranking 2024, positioning it among the top 5 percent of all companies in its category worldwide.

## Specifications for socio-ecological issues

Since 2022, our customers that are subject to the new German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG) have been contacting us to confirm that we are taking the necessary action to comply with the new legislation. We have adapted to this and fundamentally revised our procurement strategy in 2023 and 2024. Although politicians are currently scaling back their demands for human rights due diligence in global supply chains, we will continue on our course to contribute to a globally fair economy within the scope of our possibilities.

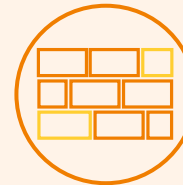
In order to anchor our ideas of social and ecological sustainability with our suppliers, we drew up and introduced a Code of Conduct for suppliers, co-packers, licensees and other business partners during the reporting period. The human rights requirements formulated there are based on German supply chain legislation and international standards such as the core labor standards of the International Labor Organization (ILO core labor standards), the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact.

With our Code of Conduct we are setting guidelines on remuneration and land use, among other things, which are of particular importance in view of our international agricultural supply chains. Moreover, we also require all raw material and packaging suppliers to submit a detailed, almost forty-page self-disclosure on specifications, mechanisms and practical handling geared to safeguarding social and environmental concerns. We have recently contractually anchored the duties of conduct required of us in the Code of Conduct and supplier questionnaire in a clause in our General Terms and Conditions of Purchase (GTCP).



### Excerpts from our Supplier Code of Conduct

- 3.5 Remuneration should cover the local cost of living and not be below the local minimum wage. A share of the remuneration is to be left to the employees' free disposal. It is not permitted to make deductions from pay as a disciplinary measure.
- 3.9 Land, forests and bodies of water that are used to secure livelihoods may not be illegally taken away, nor may illegal evictions be carried out on such areas. Suppliers are expected to ensure this when acquiring, developing or otherwise using land, forests and water.



### Key components of our sustainable procurement strategy

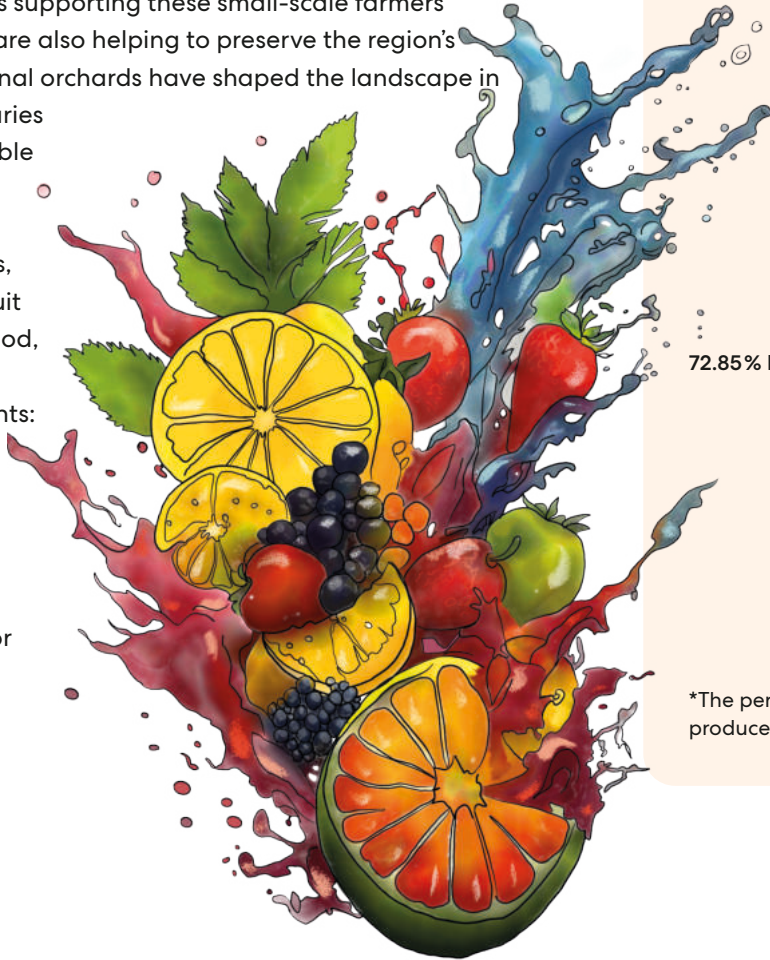
- Code of conduct for employees
- Code of conduct for suppliers and other business partners
- Supplier screening and CSR risk analysis
- Supplier self-disclosure
- Supplier audit
- Inclusion of due diligence obligations in the General Terms and Conditions of Purchase

## Raw ingredients

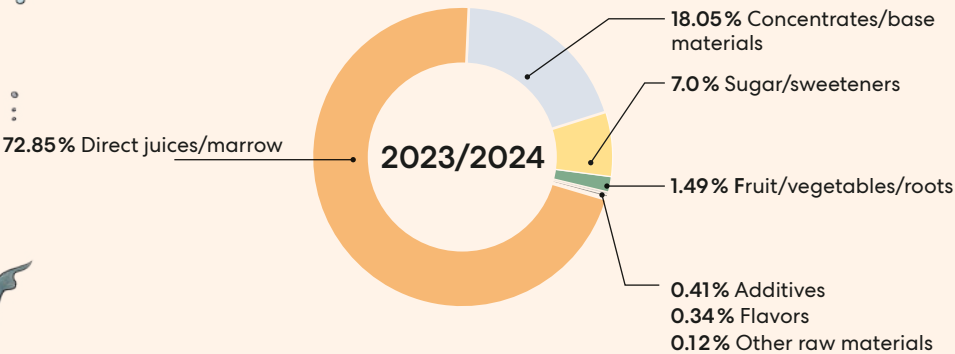
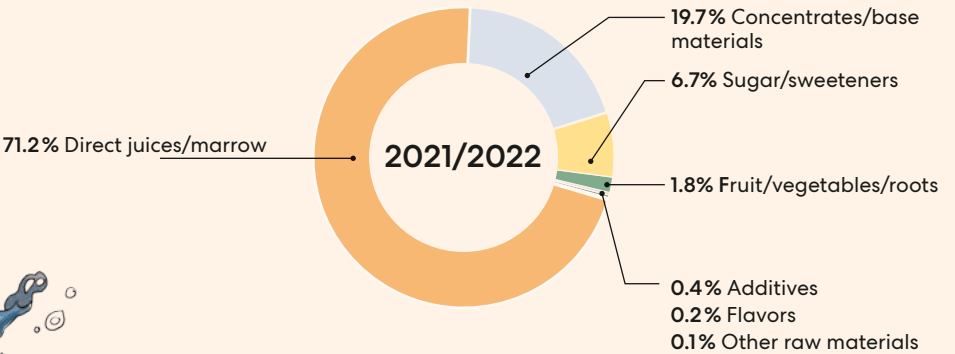
In 2023 and 2024, we procured around 106,000 and 112,000 metric tons of raw ingredients respectively. Oranges, mainly from Brazil, accounted for the largest share of these purchases by far – either as concentrate or as juice – while apples were the second biggest category, sourced primarily from Germany, South Tyrol, and eastern Europe. The apples processed by Wolfra are sourced exclusively from the local area around Erding and the Rottal valley in south-east Bavaria. Here, we have longstanding contracts with local cooperatives. As well as supporting these small-scale farmers by purchasing their produce, we are also helping to preserve the region's meadow orchards. These traditional orchards have shaped the landscape in many regions of Bavaria for centuries and are also rich sources of valuable biodiversity.

In addition to oranges and apples, we also procured the following fruit varieties during the reporting period, as juices, purées, concentrate, extracts, and other base ingredients: blood oranges, lemons, grapes, grapefruit, mandarins, limes, bananas, and multi-fruit blends.

We examine our raw materials, packaging and various services for risks in the context of food fraud (food fraud vulnerability analysis) and have developed concepts for prevention, which we review regularly.



### Our raw materials\*



\*The percentage distribution is roughly the same as in previous years. One kilogram of concentrate produces around five kilograms of juice.

## 39 Waste and recycling





## Climate protection and resources



Like many other companies in our industry, climate change is presenting us with major challenges.

In order to master the challenges associated with climate change, we are questioning established processes and exploring optimization potential.

One focus is on reducing material consumption.

During the reporting period, we also made considerable progress in the recording of upstream and downstream emissions (Scope 3) and are now evaluating our findings. At the same time, other issues are pushing their way onto the agenda. This includes, in particular, water consumption and biodiversity issues in the cultivation areas of our suppliers. We will disclose information on this for the first time in the upcoming sustainability report.

### Energy consumption

The Valensina Group is certified to the ISO 50001 standard across all its locations. We regularly conduct internal energy audits with the support of external experts. Our employees are trained once a year in the use of energy and resources.

Our interdisciplinary energy management team includes representatives from our technology, production, procurement, IT, and CSR departments across all three of our locations. The team is responsible for recording our entire energy sources and other energy data; defining and analyzing our key performance indicators; developing action plans; and calculating our annual energy savings targets based on these plans,

for both our individual locations and the group as a whole. Our designated energy management officers for each site then implement these plans in partnership with the relevant departments.

Our main energy sources are natural gas and electricity. In addition, we use biogas to a much lesser extent. Our production volumes and the outside temperatures are the major factors affecting our natural gas and electricity consumption. We resorted to heating oil in 2022 when gas shortages and high prices were expected due to the Russian war waged against Ukraine. We purchased or reactivated heating oil tanks that were filled in 2023 and only used for a short period of time. The gas boiler in Erding was used in test runs in 2024.

Since 2019, we have been part of an energy efficiency and climate protection network coordinated by Oekotec GmbH. Network members meet regularly to share experiences and ideas for increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In the 2023/2024 period, we have taken a large number of measures to improve energy efficiency, of which only the most important are listed here in the following:

A new refrigeration system was installed in Mönchengladbach and the measurement technology was further expanded in order to record and evaluate energy consumption in greater detail. In addition, we have insulated pasteurizers and steam pipes. The wastewater treatment plant in Vechta was equipped with frequency-controlled compressors geared to making plant control more efficient. In Erding, we have modernized our non-returnable glass and returnable glass facilities as we are convinced that glass is the container of the future. The modernization has made bottling more efficient and significantly reduced energy consumption. Once this work is completed, the Erding factory will be able to process a much wider range of products and bottle types. The ventilation system in the production area was renewed.

## Energy consumption within our organization\*

Sources	Mönchen- gladbach	Vechta	Erding	Valensina Group
Non-renewable	kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh
<b>Natural gas</b>				
2021	7,138,614	10,948,021	6,970,532	25,057,167
2022	7,126,330	10,405,443	7,787,920	25,319,693
2023	6,730,120	9,897,674	6,735,562	23,363,356
2024	7,481,145	10,328,560	7,495,718	25,305,423
<b>Diesel</b>				
2021			2,000	2,000
2022			500	500
2023				
2024				
<b>Heating oil</b>				
2021			466,560	466,560
2022				
2023	162,700			162,700
2024			2,862	2,862

Sources	Mönchen- gladbach	Vechta	Erding	Valensina Group
Renewable (biogas)	kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh
2021	1,196,814			1,196,814
2022	1,092,964			1,092,964
2023	1,013,020			1,013,020
2024	981,919			981,919
<b>Electricity</b>				
2021	6,444,647	7,028,541	986,474	14,459,662
2022	5,962,595	7,359,209	986,518	14,308,322
2023	5,897,762	6,934,480	1,099,690	13,931,932
2024	5,885,072	6,601,922	1,159,859	13,646,853
<b>TOTAL megajoules</b>	<b>Mj</b>	<b>Mj</b>	<b>Mj</b>	<b>Mj</b>
2021	53,208,271	64,715,623	30,332,034	148,255,928
2022	51,054,801	63,952,747	31,589,778	146,597,326
2023	49,692,967	60,595,754	28,206,907	138,495,628
2024	51,653,290	60,949,735	31,170,380	143,773,405

\*Figures taken from internal energy monitoring data. Diesel consumption for the company car fleet is not included. All figures (with the exception of biogas) are also included in our CO<sub>2</sub> footprint calculation, along with the consumption data for our company cars.

Emissions

In the year 2022, we set ourselves science-based climate targets in accordance with the methodology of the Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi) and defined an emissions reduction target of 42% by 2030 for Scope 1 and 2 by comparison with 2020. This target is achievable if the German electricity mix is largely green by then, as announced. As part of our climate scenario analysis, we have been looking at our climate targets again since 2025. We will publish details in the next report.

We have been recording the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of our locations (Scope 1 und 2) since 2019. We had also been previously recording some Scope 3 emissions. In this current reporting period, the collection of Scope 3 emissions was significantly expanded, resulting in an increase in the reported emission values. New additions include, in particular, purchased services, outbound logistics and, in the area of waste, product disposal. The major share of the newly recorded emissions relate to purchased production, consumables and packaging materials, which account for over 100,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e and comprise 75 percent of total emissions. We have adjusted the key figures for 2022 retrospectively, but not those for 2021. As the external audit of our 2024 carbon footprint is still pending at the time of publication of this report, we have decided not to disclose the key emissions figures for 2024 until next year.

In future, we also plan to record and disclose emissions from capital goods, the use of products sold, downstream transportation (distribution center to the customer) and investments.

Recorded emissions Scope 1 to 3	Category	Content
Scope 1	1.1	Stationary combustion*
	1.2	Mobile combustion*
	1.3	Fugitive emissions*
	1.4	Process emission*
Scope 2	2.1	Purchased electricity*
	2.2	Purchased heat or cold*
	2.3	Purchased steam*
Scope 3	3.1	Purchased goods & services*
	3.2	Capital goods***
	3.3	Upstream fuel & energy-related emissions (not in scopes 1 & 2)*
	3.4	Upstream transportation & distribution*
	3.5	Waste generated during operation*
	3.6	Business trips*
	3.7	Employee commuting*
	3.8	Upstream leased assets***
	3.9	Downstream transportation**
	3.10	Processing of goods sold***
	3.11	Use of products sold***
	3.12	Treatment at the end of the life cycle*
	3.13	Downstream leased assets***
	3.14	Franchises***
	3.15	Investments***

\* fully recorded, \*\* partially recorded, \*\*\* not yet been recorded



Protecting the planet with Bavaria’s meadow orchards

Wolfra sources its apples from around 1,500 mostly small fruit growing farms in the Lower Bavarian Rottal and Erding region. Since 2021, the company has been involved in a regional climate protection project to build up humus.

A higher humus content in the soil has a doubly positive effect, as it stores CO<sub>2</sub> while improving the water and nutrient balance at the same time. This regenerates depleted soils and makes fruit trees more resistant to drought stress and the impacts of climate change.

While there are already tried and tested methods for building up humus in arable farming, orchards are breaking new ground. The first results of the pilot project are expected in the upcoming years.



**Greenhouse gas emissions 2021–2023 in tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)\***

Greenhouse gas emissions 2021–2023 in metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Mönchen- gladbach	Vechta	Erding	Valensina Group
<b>Scope 1**</b>				
2021	1,498.9	2,220.5	1,578.9	5,298.3
2022	1,759.33	2,131.13	1,636.81	5,527.27
2023	1,514.39	2,084.74	1,439.96	5,039.09
<b>Scope 2***</b>				
2021	1,385.6	1,511.1	212.1	3,108.8
2022	1,581.64	2,516.85	257.48	4,355.97
2023	572.55	680.46	106.67	1,359.68
<b>Total Scope 1 + 2</b>				
2021	2,884.5	3,731.6	1,791.0	8,407.1
2022	3,340.97	4,647.98	1,894.29	9,883.24
2023	2,086.94	2,765.20	1,546.63	6,398.77
<b>Scope 3</b>				
2021	1,855.5	3,298.4	878.9	6,032.8
2022****	44,424.41	69,069.19	12,686.16	126,179.76
2023	51,774.57	71,989.38	13,368.08	137,132.03
<b>Total</b>				
2021	4,740.4	7,030	2,669.9	14,440.3
2022****	47,765.38	73,717.17	14,580.45	136,063
2023	53,861.51	74,754.59	14,914.72	143,530.82

\* Audited key figures for 2024 not yet available.

\*\* Biogas is included with an emission factor of 0.

\*\*\* In the previous sustainability report, preliminary emission factors were used for 2022, which have been corrected in this report.

\*\*\*\* The significant increase in the value compared to 2021 is due to additional categories being taken into account. The Scope 3 emissions for 2022 published in the previous Sustainability Report have been corrected accordingly in this report.

**Water and effluents**

As part of our ESRS climate scenario analysis in May 2025, we addressed the risks and repercussions of water demand at our locations and in the supply chain. We are aware that water consumption, particularly in the fruit-growing industry, is an area that requires critical scrutiny and must not be overlooked. Consequently, in this report we will be focusing for the last time on our own water consumption. In future, we will also be reporting on details of our upstream chain. This primarily relates to water consumption in the cultivation of oranges in Brazil, as these are by far our most important raw material. To date, all we can say about water consumption in the upstream chain is that valid water management is an important criterion in SGF audits. We source the major share of our raw materials from SGF members.

We use water primarily to reconstitute our fruit juices from concentrate, to produce our juice drinks and nectars, and to clean our production lines. This water is sourced from the municipal water network and, in Vechta, from our three privately-owned wells. All water used in the production of our juices complies with the German Drinking Water Ordinance (TrinkwV). It is also treated in line with the quality standards set out in our product specifications.

In Mönchengladbach, our main emphasis is on producing direct juices. The Mönchengladbach factory produces mainly chilled products and its production volumes are such that its water consumption levels are low. By contrast, water consumption at our Vechta factory is high, since it processes large volumes of fruit juice concentrate using water and extracts. In Vechta, we pump water almost exclusively from our own deep wells. We hold water rights for the extraction volumes that have been allocated to us up to 2036. The authorities monitor the volumes of water we use. In addition, we are required to publish an annual report detailing exactly what we use the water for and how we keep our water consumption to a minimum. Just as with mains water, groundwater usage is subject to charges.

We check and monitor the water level in our wells. So far, there are no signs of declines in groundwater levels. None of our sites are in areas currently impacted by water shortages. Climate change, however, is invariably associated with further declines in groundwater levels. This is an area that we, as a business, aim to be addressing more thoroughly in the coming years.

In Mönchengladbach, process water is directed to our biogas plant and then subsequently fed into the public sewer system as pre-treated wastewater. Our Vechta site has its own wastewater treatment plant with the capacity to treat up to 15,000 population equivalent (PE) of wastewater. The discharge volumes from the plant are subject to four spot checks each year, conducted by an independent laboratory (EWE Netz GmbH), and the results from these analyses are reported to the local authorities in Vechta. In Erding, we discharge wastewater from our production processes into the public sewer system subsequent to neutralization.

We make every effort to keep our process water in circulation for as long as possible, in order to reduce our water consumption. We collect cooling water, which is subsequently used as cleaning water. Water vapor is also collected, condensed and fed back into the steam cycle.

Water withdrawal and water consumption in liters

Water withdrawal	Mönchen- gladbach	Vechta	Erding	Valensina Group
Network				
2021	110,003,441	3,877,000	63,151,000	177,031,441
2022	111,528,289	3,787,000	60,852,000	176,167,289
2023	108,914,826	3,388,000	53,200,000	165,502,826
2024	112,920,321	3,888,000	54,985,860	171,794,181
Wells				
2021		275,644,000		275,644,000
2022		293,645,000		293,645,000
2023		262,440,000		262,440,000
2024		243,771,000		243,771,000
Total water withdrawal				
2021	110,003,441	279,521,000	63,151,000	452,675,441
2022	111,528,289	297,432,000	60,852,000	469,812,289
2023	108,914,826	265,828,000	53,200,000	427,942,826
2024	112,920,321	247,659,000	54,985,860	415,565,181

Water consumption	Mönchen- gladbach	Vechta	Erding	Valensina Group
Product				
2021	12,963,210	107,773,000	6,871,159	127,607,369
2022	11,407,887	111,815,000	7,813,053	131,035,940
2023	11,991,163	92,670,000	6,747,953	111,409,116
2024	11,706,816	72,756,000	6,521,402	90,984,218
Process				
2021	97,040,231	171,748,000	56,279,841	325,068,072
2022	100,120,402	185,617,000	53,038,947	338,776,349
2023	96,923,663	184,021,000	46,452,047	327,396,710
2024	101,213,505	174,766,000	48,464,458	324,443,963
Total water consumption				
2021	110,003,441	279,521,000	63,151,000	452,675,441
2022	111,528,289	297,432,000	60,852,000	469,812,289
2023	108,914,826	276,691,000	53,200,000	438,805,826
2024	112,920,321	247,522,000	54,985,860	415,428,181

Waste and recycling

Each of our locations maintains records of their waste disposal operations and we analyze this data centrally. We generate the most waste from paper and cardboard, organic waste and glass.

We empty disposable PET bottles that are returned to us due to exceeding their best-before date, for example. The juice goes to the biogas plant, the bottles are pressed by us, shredded and resold as secondary raw material, ideally to be processed into new PET bottles.

Our packaging materials have a significant ecological impact when they come to the end of their product life. When this happens, they need to be collected, sorted, and then processed. The majority of the waste is plastic, which is either recycled (in the case of our bottles) in a very energy intensive process or alternatively sent to waste-to-energy facilities. As a packaging producer based in Europe, we are legally responsible for the costs of disposing of our packaging (Extended Producer Responsibility, ERP) and we meet these obligations in full. We are not aware of any risks associated with waste disposal in our upstream value chain.

### Biowaste

Our biowaste comprises spoiled fruit, fruit peel, pomace, bottled juice, and biosludge. Spoiled fruit is only found at our Erding site, while the major share of our biowaste actually comes from Mönchengladbach, because this is where we produce chilled juices not derived from concentrate and involving short expiry dates. Most products rejected during production, or occasionally returned by customers, are sent to an external waste-to-energy facility. A small share goes into our biogas plant.

### Food waste

In Germany, every year, around 11 million tons of edible food end up as waste for a variety of reasons. This wastage occurs at every stage in the value chain, from farmers to manufacturers, retailers, and end consumers. At the Valensina Group, the majority of our waste in this category consists of finished products that do not meet the required standards. These can be underfilled bottles, which we reject during production. In addition, there are products whose remaining life is less than that agreed with the customer and which are therefore returned to us. Some products are also ordered and then never accepted by the customer.

Wherever possible, we put these products back into the production cycle. The bottles are emptied and the contents poured into tanks, where they undergo the same checks we perform on all our raw ingredients. They can then be reprocessed into new products. Unfortunately, this is a very labor-intensive process (in particular for juices not made

from concentrate) and we simply do not have sufficient staff to re-process all these products, meaning the majority have to be thrown away. To date, most of the goods have been disposed of. Some products are donated, given away to staff, or put on sale at a discount.

### Glass

Our Erding factory packages its products in glass bottles. Once used, any returnable bottles are sent back to us for cleaning. Any damaged bottles and broken glass are sent for recycling.

### Paper & cardboard

Paper and cardboard are among the biggest waste categories in Vechta and Mönchengladbach. Both these materials are used for secondary product packaging, pallet dividers, and display materials. Any waste is recycled.

### Plastic & plastic film

Our Vechta factory in particular uses large volumes of plastic and plastic film. We fill ambient juices there, mainly in PET bottles. The vast majority of the ambient juices produced at the site are packaged in PET bottles and these bottles are also shrink-wrapped in six packs or other combinations, as well as being transported on pallets secured with stretch wrap. We are working to improve the current situation by reducing the weight of our packaging, using recycled content, and making our packaging as recyclable as possible.

### Other waste

Our Erding factory produces a larger volume of mixed waste than our other sites due to its bottle rinsing process. During this process, the labels are washed off the bottles and become mixed with the cleaning fluid, meaning they have to be thrown away in the residual waste rather than in the paper recycling. The high proportion of metal waste in Erding includes aluminum capsules, closures, scrap metal and tin drums in particular.



## Total waste in kilograms and according to recycling and processing channels\*

Hazardous			
Hazardous waste sent for recycling or disposal			
Fluorescent tubes, oily waste, solvents, laboratory waste, etc.			
	Mönchengladbach	Vechta	Erding
2021	0 kg	0 kg	**19,420 kg
2022	60 kg	0 kg	7,440 kg
2023	250 kg	0 kg	1,964 kg
2024	1,090 kg	0 kg	262 kg
Non-hazardous			
Waste recycled			
Glas			
	Mönchengladbach	Vechta	Erding
2021	1,400 kg	1,600 kg	350,010 kg
2022	800 kg	1,200 kg	261,250 kg
2023	510 kg	0 kg	203,320 kg
2024	940 kg	0 kg	303,750 kg
Plastic & plastic film			
	Mönchengladbach	Vechta	Erding
2021	18,600 kg	88,570 kg	8,000 kg
2022	15,480 kg	89,080 kg	5,840 kg
2023	12,650 kg	102,660 kg	4,430 kg
2024	7,880 kg	138,380 kg	3,590 kg
Metal waste & scrap metal			
	Mönchengladbach	Vechta	Erding
2021	0 kg	7,120 kg	74,990 kg
2022	0 kg	0 kg	65,060 kg
2023	0 kg	0 kg	60,850 kg
2024	0 kg	1,200 kg	67,990 kg

Paper & cardboard			
	Mönchengladbach	Vechta	Erding
2021	126,100 kg	202,600 kg	26,800 kg
2022	94,510 kg	208,660 kg	22,340 kg
2023	128,450 kg	208,450 kg	38,830 kg
2024	127,290 kg	222,840 kg	38,260 kg
Energy recovery after pre-treatment (biogas, food waste processing)			
Biowaste, spoiled fruit, bottled juice, biosludge (6.1% dry matter)			
	Mönchengladbach	Vechta	Erding
2021	883,997 kg	23,380 kg	61,780 kg
2022	245,759 kg	43,330 kg	97,600 kg
2023	309,670 kg	22,110 kg	19,100 kg
2024	288,220 kg	25,790 kg	1,700 kg
Recycling, material or thermal recovery after sorting and pre-treatment			
Other mixed waste			
	Mönchengladbach	Vechta	Erding
2021	114,500 kg	61,900 kg	138,250 kg
2022	87,520 kg	49,170 kg	140,100 kg
2023	77,060 kg	63,430 kg	95,910 kg
2024	90,980 kg	54,860 kg	84,910 kg
Recycling, material recovery or landfilling, depending on type and composition			
Rubble, other construction waste, garden waste, bulky waste, electronic waste, wood			
	Mönchengladbach	Vechta	Erding
2021	71,600 kg	13,470 kg	20,190 kg
2022	67,280 kg	16,820 kg	135,920 kg
2023	86,800 kg	11,900 kg	145,280 kg
2024	***106,300 kg	12,150 kg	149,720 kg

\* Figures shown are for our production facilities; our administrative buildings are not included. Significant fluctuations in the figures, e.g. for scrap metal or hazardous waste, are due to the irregular collection schedule of the waste disposal companies.

\*\* One-off disposal of juice contaminated with hydraulic oil.

\*\*\* In particular, disposable pallets and wooden boxes due to delivery of the new blowing system.

## Our employees

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# Our employees



We perceive the further development of our corporate and management culture as the most important key to achieving our economic goals.

We want our employees to identify with the Valensina Group and enjoy working for the company. Our members of staff benefit from flat hierarchies, direct communication channels, outstanding employer benefits and a lively, vibrant corporate culture. We are committed to helping

our employees develop their skills and want to foster a strong sense of loyalty to our company. In the reporting period, we began developing an employer branding strategy that is to be implemented by the year 2026.

## Staffing structure

For many years, our male-to-female ratio has remained unchanged at one third women to two thirds men, which is a fairly typical distribution for manufacturing companies.

At the end of the 2024 reporting period, the Valensina Group employed 391 members of staff. After experiencing considerable difficulties in filling vacancies in previous years - for example when employees retired - we were able to close the gaps in 2024. Our committed and strategically oriented HR work made a significant contribution to this.

In order to boost and enhance our profile among potential applicants, the Valensina Group is currently maintaining a presence on XING and kununu. In addition, we have also introduced a digital applicant management tool that significantly streamlines and

speeds up the application process for candidates. We recruit new colleagues locally at our locations with billboards and targeted campaigns. Moreover, the HR department was also strengthened: A recruiter is now dedicated exclusively to recruiting new employees for our various locations. These bundled measures have enabled us to fill vacant positions more rapidly.

### Number of employees\*

Number of employees		2021		2022		2023		2024	
		f	m	f	m	f	m	w	m
... according to employment contract	Permanent	123	246	125	243	111	218	115	267
	Fixed term	1	5	1	10	2	12	3	6
... by employment relationship	Full time	84	239	85	239	75	222	93	252
	Part time	40	12	41	14	40	6	37	9
Total		375		379		343		391	

\* Employees who at the end of the reporting period (on 12/31) had an employment contract (either permanent or fixed term) with a Valensina Group company, including those working full time, part time, or marginal hours, those on maternity leave, working parental part-time hours, or in partial retirement, and those signed off long term sick. The head count includes members of the Management Board, but not apprentices, interns, or temporary staff, and has not been calculated as full-time equivalent (FTE).

During the reporting period, we employed up to 13 marginal workers with flexible working hours to suit their requirements.

In the reporting period, we deployed temporary staff in Vechta and Erding in particular. Temporary staff were employed primarily at our Vechta and Erding sites, where they assisted the production and warehouse teams, and helped out during the rhubarb harvest in Erding. We have been recording the number of temporary workers centrally since 2021 and the total number of hours worked by temporary workers since 2023. We endeavor to employ permanent staff wherever possible.



Temporary employees, number of staff and hours worked

Location	2021	2022	2023		2024	
	Staff	Staff	Staff	Hours	Staff	Hours
Mönchengladbach	2	0	1	1,064	2	2,724
Vechta	58	92	80	21,249	83	25,966
Erding	21	11	2	275	2	540
Total	81	103	83	22,588	87	29,230



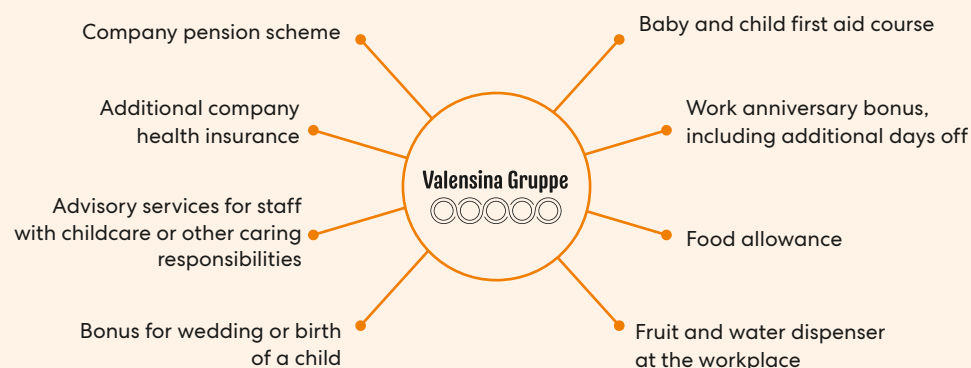
The Saftastics

The “Die Safttastischen” team was founded in 2022. The ‘Safttastics’ is a small project team created in 2022 to strengthen the sense of solidarity and team spirit within the Valensina Group. Among other things, “Die Safttastischen” organized outdoor local festive events and tasting days in various departments. Regular breakfasts take place with the management at all three locations, where colleagues have the opportunity to get to know the managing directors personally and exchange ideas with them. Process and equipment improvements have also already been initiated. The “Die Safttastischen” teams motivate other volunteers to set up shared activities. These include a regulars’ table, black light mini golf, brewery tours, a European Championship betting game and sporting activities. In the meantime, additional “Safttastic” rounds have been set up across all locations to promote and individually support the exchange of ideas within the entire Valensina Group.

## Employee benefits

We provide a generous package of additional benefits. In particular, they include a company pension plan (bAV) as well as a company-subsidized supplementary health insurance (bKV). In addition, there are counseling services for the care of children and relatives, a meal allowance and various subsidies, allowances and days off for weddings, births and anniversaries. All members of staff – both full and part-time employees – have equal access to all benefits, whereby any company pension payments and health insurance cover are allocated prorata. In view of the rise in fuel prices, we have provided employees who are not managers or who drive a company car with fuel vouchers worth EUR 50 in the years 2022 to 2024.

### Our additional benefits package



Each of our three locations was originally an independent company and these differences in salary structure are a legacy left over from that time. The employees at two locations (Vechta and Erding) have works councils that represent the interests of the employees.

Employees agree their individual salaries with their managers. The salary brackets for employees active in production and closely linked areas were revised in Erding in 2022 and in Vechta in 2023, as well as newly established in Mönchengladbach.

We promote the exchange between employees and the flow of information across locations. We also maintain an internal blog for this purpose and work with video communication. We update our blog with new content at least twice a week.



### Our blog topics for greater transparency and enhanced exchange

#### “What is ... ?”

We prepare specialist topics in a straightforward and readily comprehensible manner for all employees. The aim is to make information tangible and provide insights.

#### “This is us” / “Who is ... ?”

Personal questions put to new colleagues, trainees or existing employees - this is how we get to know each other better.

#### Discussions with management and the management team

Insights into strategic topics, such as quarterly reports or the status of operational targets.

#### Latest news about our brands, co-packing & private label activities

New products, formulas, recipes, campaigns or press releases.

#### Insights into our specialist departments

The locations and divisions report on what moves them, such as new facilities and systems, sustainability projects or innovation topics.

#### Worth knowing for all employees

Relevant information from the HR department, the “Safttastischen” activities and many other areas that are relevant for our day-to-day work.

## Professional development opportunities

We guide new employees through an induction program. Everyone receives a starter pack with important information and individual induction plans. Our company offers sound opportunities for professional growth. Generating managers from our own ranks is important to us. Many of our trainees make their way and advance to key positions.

Each department is responsible for the professional development of its staff. We differentiate between mandatory training and additional professional or personal development. Training needs are identified and defined specifically as part of the annual meetings between employees and their line managers.



### Our apprentice roles

- Industrial clerk - Specialist for fruit juice technology
- Specialist for fruit juice technology
- Laboratory chemist

## Management development opportunities

We are convinced that a good management culture makes a significant contribution to motivating and retaining talent in our company. We rely on a feedback culture that works in both directions between managerial staff and employees. The Valensina Group has a management mission statement and regularly trains all its managers. Structured feedback and annual meetings are held at all levels of the Group, for which we train our managers.



### A few examples of our 'Good Management' workshops

- Team development
- Conflict discussions
- Interview techniques and successfully conducting job interviews
- The secret of relaxed high performance
- Employee development with the coaching management style
- Motivate and strengthen team spirit



## Health and safety at work

Occupational health and safety is governed by stringent legislative standards in Germany. As required by law, we have occupational health and safety teams in place at all our sites, who meet at least four times every year to discuss health and safety risks in the workplace and accident prevention measures. Workplace risks exist across all our departments – whether in production, processing, technology, quality assurance, logistics, or in administration – and we work hard to identify and analyze these risks, so we can keep them to a minimum.

In the years 2023 and 2024 the most common types of work-related injuries were cuts to the fingers and dislocations or bruises to the arms and shoulders. Two accidents were commuting accidents. No accident resulted in permanent physical impairments. Our declared aim is to prevent accidents entirely.

The coronavirus pandemic has accelerated the digitalization of our company and changed the way we work together. Many colleagues from the administration areas continue to work partially remotely. We are increasingly opting for height-adjustable desks in our offices.

### Notifiable accidents

	Mönchengladbach	Vechta	Erding	Total
2021	4	5	4	13
2022	0	1	5	6
2023	2	2	5	9
2024	5	4	1	10



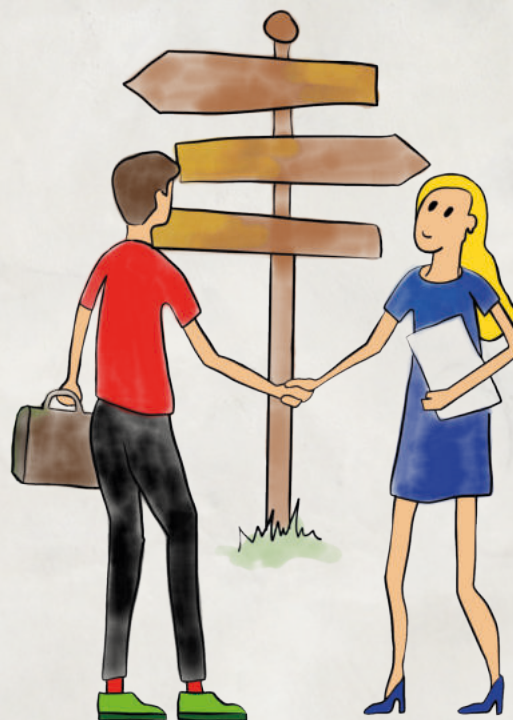
### Occupational health and safety training topics

- General fire protection
- Fire safety assistants
- First aiders
- Protective clothing and hazardous substances (part of hygiene training)

## Business ethics

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50 Complaints procedure and due diligence



## Business ethics



Ethical business practices lie at the heart of our corporate culture and we expect all our employees and business partners to uphold the very highest standards without exception.

The Valensina Group is firmly committed to upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as well as the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. We have committed ourselves to the industry codes of conduct of amfori BSCI and the European Fruit Juice Association (AIJN). During the reporting period, we also developed a sophisticated and ambitious code of conduct for suppliers that makes explicit reference to the above-mentioned standards. Compliance with the Supplier Code of Conduct is part of our General Terms and Conditions. Further information about this can be found in the 'Our supply chain' section of this report.

## Rules and guidelines

The compliance topics and issues are firmly anchored in the management. The Valensina Group has many internal policies and work instructions in place to help our staff uphold the standards that we have set for ourselves. All members of staff are made aware of our rules and regulations when they join the company and can access copies of the relevant policies through our document management system. Our most important overarching guidelines consist of our corporate policy, our General Terms and Conditions of Purchase, the Data Protection Manual and the Business Travel Policy, including benefits.

We also provide training and create posters to remind staff of the most important requirements. As from 2025, we will be using software to provide mandatory training in

particular, as well as training on compliance and sustainability, in order to ensure that all relevant members of staff regularly complete the training courses.

Any policies that apply across all our locations must be signed off by the Management Board, while others can be approved by the relevant department or location, depending on the scope of application, impact, significance and circumstances.

The Valensina Group was not subject to any fines or other sanctions during the reporting period or in any of the previous years.

### Sustainability: Our training courses in the reporting period

- ✓ 1. Sustainability reporting
- ✓ 2. Rainforest Alliance
- ✓ 3. Codes of conduct  
(Valensina SCoC, German General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) & Federal Act on Gender Equality (BGleG), BSCI, AIJN, ETI, customer-specific CoCs)
- ✓ 4. General legislative framework conditions  
(German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG), German Whistleblower Protection Act (HinSchG), Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD))
- ✓ 5. Energy management DIN ISO 50001
- ✓ 6. Co<sub>2</sub> footprint and climate targets
- ✓ 7. Recyclability and packaging goals
- ✓ 8. Waste



## Complaints procedure and due diligence

Since 2023, the Valensina Group has had an anonymous whistleblower system in place that can be used by employees and external stakeholders alike. Our website is the central point of contact. When submitting a complaint, whistleblowers can choose whether or not they wish to remain anonymous. All complaints are collated by an external ombudsman service, which confirms receipt with the whistleblower and assesses as to whether the complaint is credible. Depending on the nature of the complaint, it is then passed to one or more managers within the Valensina Group and processed internally. Any action taken to address the complaint is approved by the Management Board and the ombudsman service informs the whistleblower of the outcome. There were no reports for the years 2023 and 2024.

The Valensina Group also has several other mechanisms in place for raising concerns. Designated mailboxes are provided at all three locations, where employees can raise concerns, both anonymously or otherwise. These mailboxes are emptied by HR staff and the feedback passed on to the departments concerned. To date we have received no complaints by way of this mechanism, only suggestions. External complaints – most of which relate to our products – can be submitted by phone, email, or post. These complaints are collated and reviewed by our quality management team. Complaints are collected and evaluated in the quality management department. Finally, any complaints and corrective actions resulting from audits and on-site inspections (both internal and external) are addressed during an annual management review meeting.

The Management Board is kept up to date with any ongoing concerns during senior management meetings with representatives from the different departments. In the case of serious concerns, where the health of consumers is at risk or our company image is in jeopardy, we follow the strict protocol set out in our systematic crisis management procedure. During the 2023/2024 reporting period, we did not receive any complaints or reports, either internally or externally, in terms of corruption.

As from 2023 onwards, many of our B2B customers will be subject to the German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG). This legislation requires businesses to observe due diligence obligations with regard to recording and preventing human rights violations and negative environmental impacts within their supply chains. Although we are not, as yet, subject to the legislation ourselves, we plan to begin a risk analysis for our own business operations and those of our direct suppliers in the second half of 2023. Further information about this is available in the 'Our supply chain' section of this report.

## Annex

52 [GRI content index](#)



# Annex

## GRI content index

<b>Statement of use</b>	
The Valensina Group has reported the information cited in this GRI content index for the period 01.01.2023 - 31.12.2024 in accordance with the GRI Standards.	
<b>GRI 1 used</b>	<b>GRI 1: Foundation 2021</b>
<b>Applicable GRI Sector Standards</b>	<b>none</b>

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