



6.4.6 Food, Beverage & Personal Care

At every stage of the value chain, food and beverage companies have the potential to inflict great harm or do tremendous good for children, and therefore must consider children in their policies and practices. For example, the focus needs to be on the potential of the food and beverage industry to respect and support children's rights to health and adequate nutrition. This includes consideration of children when determining how products are designed, marketed, labelled, priced and how products are made available.

Food, Beverage & Personal Care is a sector that includes companies that process raw ingredients and produce products for consumption. Companies in this sector sell and market products directly to customers, including children. Industries included in the sector are Agricultural Products, Food & Beverage and Personal & Household Products.

In this study, the Food, Beverage & Personal Care sector has the highest total average score out of all sectors and some of the highest scores across indicators.

Compared to other sectors, companies in this sector include marketplace issues with relation to children as part of their materiality analysis to a greater extent. As companies in this sector often market and sell their products directly to children, it is critical that companies include a consideration of children's rights in their efforts in these areas. Nevertheless, the share of companies that have a marketplace policy (13%) or a product safety policy that includes children (6%) remain low. Only 3% of the companies report on cases of violations of product safety or marketing with regard to children respectively. A tenth of the companies report that they have a product safety programme specifically for children. For this indicator, there are other sectors with a less obvious relationship to children as consumers which perform better.

This sector does comparatively well on Workplace indicators. About half of the companies cover child labour in their materiality assessment, and 65 % of the companies have a child labour policy. However, a significantly smaller share (35 %) report on supplier assessments.

In comparison, their commitment is not as strong with regard to family friendly policies; only 16 % of the companies have a parental leave policy (beyond what is legally required) or a commitment to work-life balance. However, this does not seem to reflect their efforts given that 68% of the companies report on programmes focused on improving working conditions for parents and caregivers in their own operations and supply chains.

Has the highest total average score out of all sectors and some of the highest scores across indicators

Examples of the main impacts on children's rights:

Impact	Where	Example
Child labour	Operations/ Supply chain	Child labour in informal sector and in family farming. Hazardous child labour is a particular risk in agriculture.
Children's health.	Products/ marketing	Products that are not in line with nutritional/safety standards could potentially be dangerous and result in child injuries and health problems, such as obesity.
Access to parents	Employees	Opportunity to provide and promote flexible work, parental leave, etc.
Children's safety and wellbeing	Employees / Supply chain	Offer childcare to ensure that children are being looked after when their parents are at work.

Sector statistics

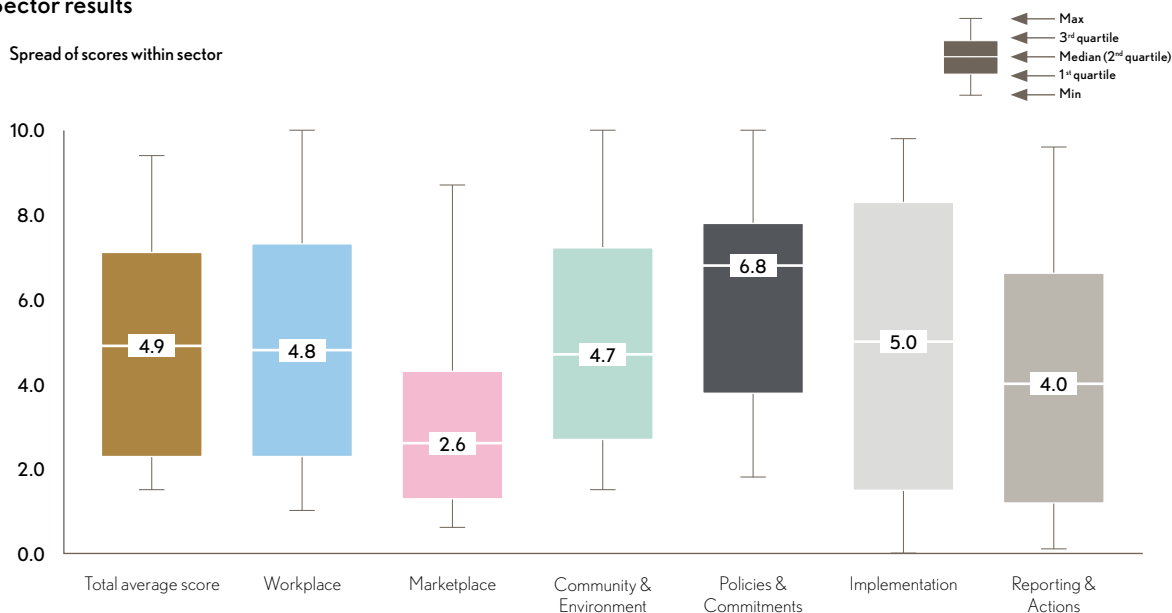
Companies in study	31
Agricultural Products	24
Food & Beverage	6
Personal & Household Products	1
Average sector revenue	\$3.88B



6.4.6 Food, Beverage & Personal Care

Sector results

Spread of scores within sector



Top 3 companies with highest score 2020

Company name	Industry	Overall score (max score 10)	Performance group
Wilmar International Ltd.	Agricultural products	9.4	Leader
Sime Darby Plantation BHD	Agricultural products	8.7	Leader
IOI Corporation BHD	Agricultural products	8.1	Leader

Top-mover since 2016²²

Company name	Industry	Score 2016 (max score 9)	Score 2020 (max score 10)	Change
IOI Corporation BHD	Agricultural products	2	9	+7

²² For the 2016-2020 comparison, we have applied a previous methodology, meaning that these scores are not directly comparable to the 2020 benchmark scores. For more information about conversion and scoring, please see the [Comparing 2016 to 2020 Results Section](#).