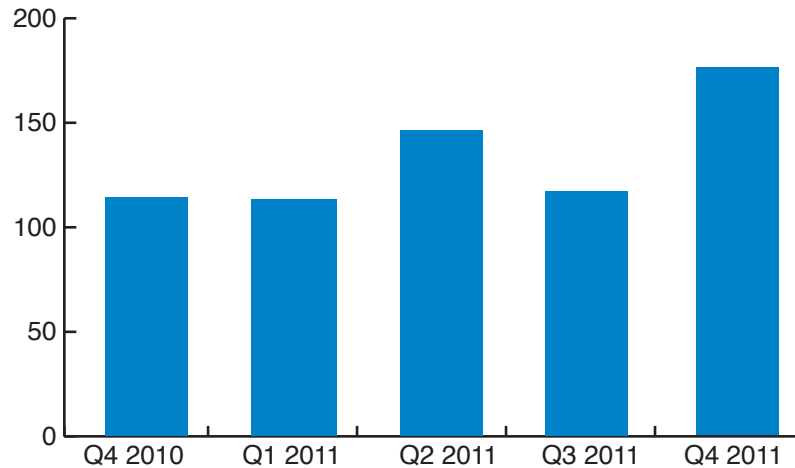


Recall Index - Fourth Quarter 2011

Food

Food Recalls by Quarter

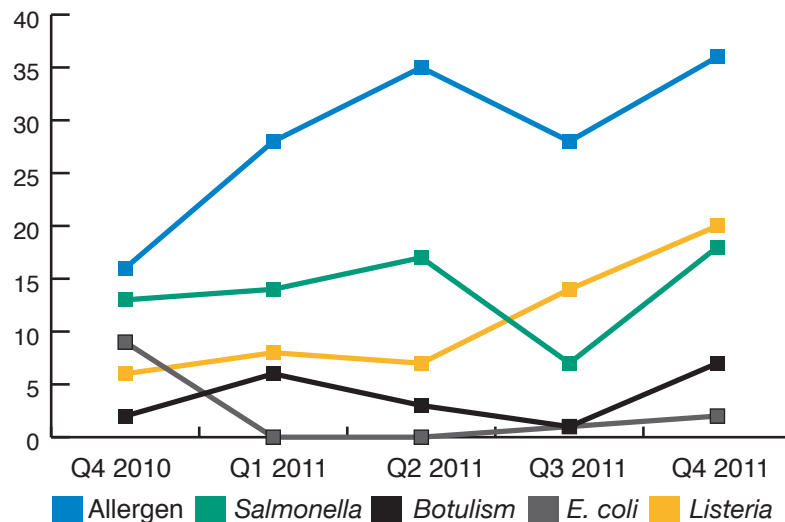


In the fourth quarter of 2011, FDA enforcement reports documented 176 food recalls initiated by more than 150 companies and affecting nearly 70 million units. The number of recalled units documented in enforcement reports during the fourth quarter was the highest in the past four quarters, affecting 80 percent more units than recalls documented in the third quarter of 2011.

Of fourth-quarter recalls, 42 affected customers nationwide. Twenty-eight recalls affected domestic and international customers. Two recalls affected only customers outside the U.S.

FDA enforcement reports documented over 50 percent more recalls in the fourth quarter of 2011 compared to the previous quarter, and almost 55 percent more recalls than the same quarter last year.

Leading Causes of Food Recalls



Of recalls documented in FDA enforcement reports during the fourth quarter, 50 percent were listed as Class I. About 40 percent were listed as Class II and the remainder were listed as Class III.

The ExpertRECALL Index also reviewed FDA recall announcements which revealed the following:

- Undeclared allergens or other allergen concerns remained the primary cause of recalls during the fourth quarter, accounting for more than one-third of food recalls initiated in the quarter.
- Recalls due to undeclared allergens reached a new high in the fourth quarter, surpassing levels recorded in at least five quarters.
- Potential *Listeria* contamination was the second leading cause of the more than 100 food recalls announced on the FDA website during the fourth quarter, representing 20 recalls throughout the quarter. The third leading cause of food recalls was potential *Salmonella* contamination, representing 18 recalls.