



FDA Recalls 2017-2020

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Summary:

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 – which caused supply chain disruptions and workforce shortages – the food industry worked alongside the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure the nation’s food marketplace is safe for human and animal consumption, while simultaneously working to maintain employee safety and health. When necessary, FDA works with the food industry to recall adulterated or misbranded products from the market to protect public health.

FMI monitors and analyzes publicly available recall and public health alerts from FDA [Recall Press Releases](#). A full list of recalls and attributes can be found in FDA [Enforcement Reports](#). FMI organizes this information based on different recall characteristics, which include, but are not limited to:

- Classification (Class I, Class II, Class III)
- Product(s) Recalled
- Reason for Recall
- Product Category (based on [RFR commodity definitions](#))
- Type of Brand (Private or National)

From 2017 to 2020, there were 1,010 total FDA recall press releases, with 36% of these recalls involving private brands. Since 2017, undeclared allergens have served as the leading cause of FDA recalls, with *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella* spp. recalls on the rise. 62% of FDA recalls were categorized as Class I and 11% of recalls were not classified. In 2020, the FDA re-published 175 recalls that were previously published from 2017 through 2019. These 175 recalls were excluded from FMI's 2020 data.

FDA Recall Overview 2017-2020:

2017

325 recalls with 38% of recalls from private brands

Undeclared allergens were the leading cause of recalls (48%)

Undeclared allergens were the leading cause of private brand recalls (57%)

2018

260 recalls with 33% of recalls from private brands

Undeclared allergens were the leading cause of recalls (44%)

Undeclared allergens were the leading cause of private brand recalls (55%)

2019

238 recalls with 29% of recalls from private brands

Undeclared allergens were the leading cause of recalls (34%)

Listeria monocytogenes was the leading cause of private brand recalls (39%)

2020

187 recalls with 44% of recalls from private brands

Undeclared allergens were the leading cause of recalls (52%)

Undeclared allergens were the leading cause of private brand (55%)

Figure 1: Top Reasons for FDA Recalls from 2017-2020

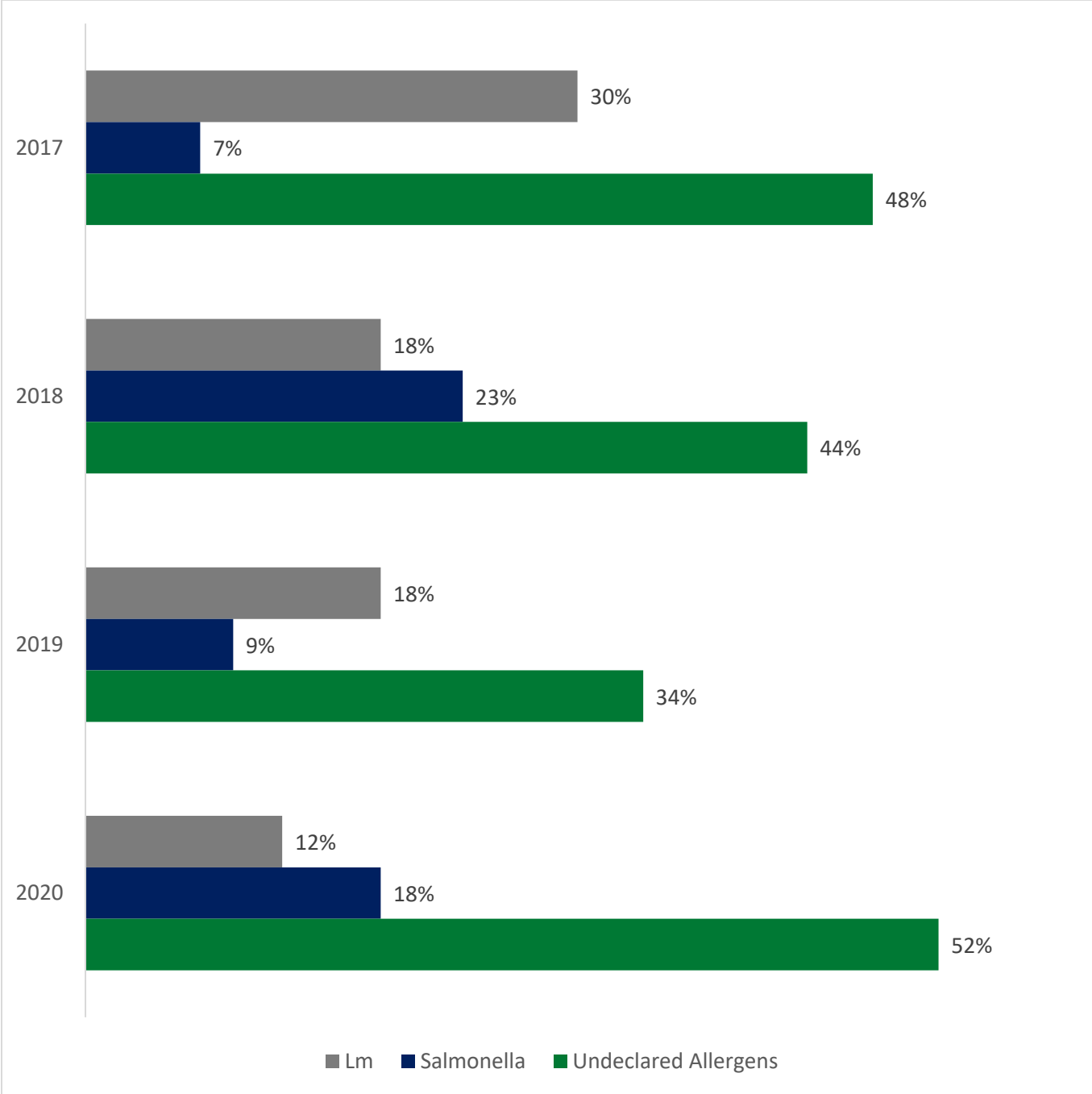


Figure 2: Percentage of Recalled Products Classified as Class I from 2017-2020

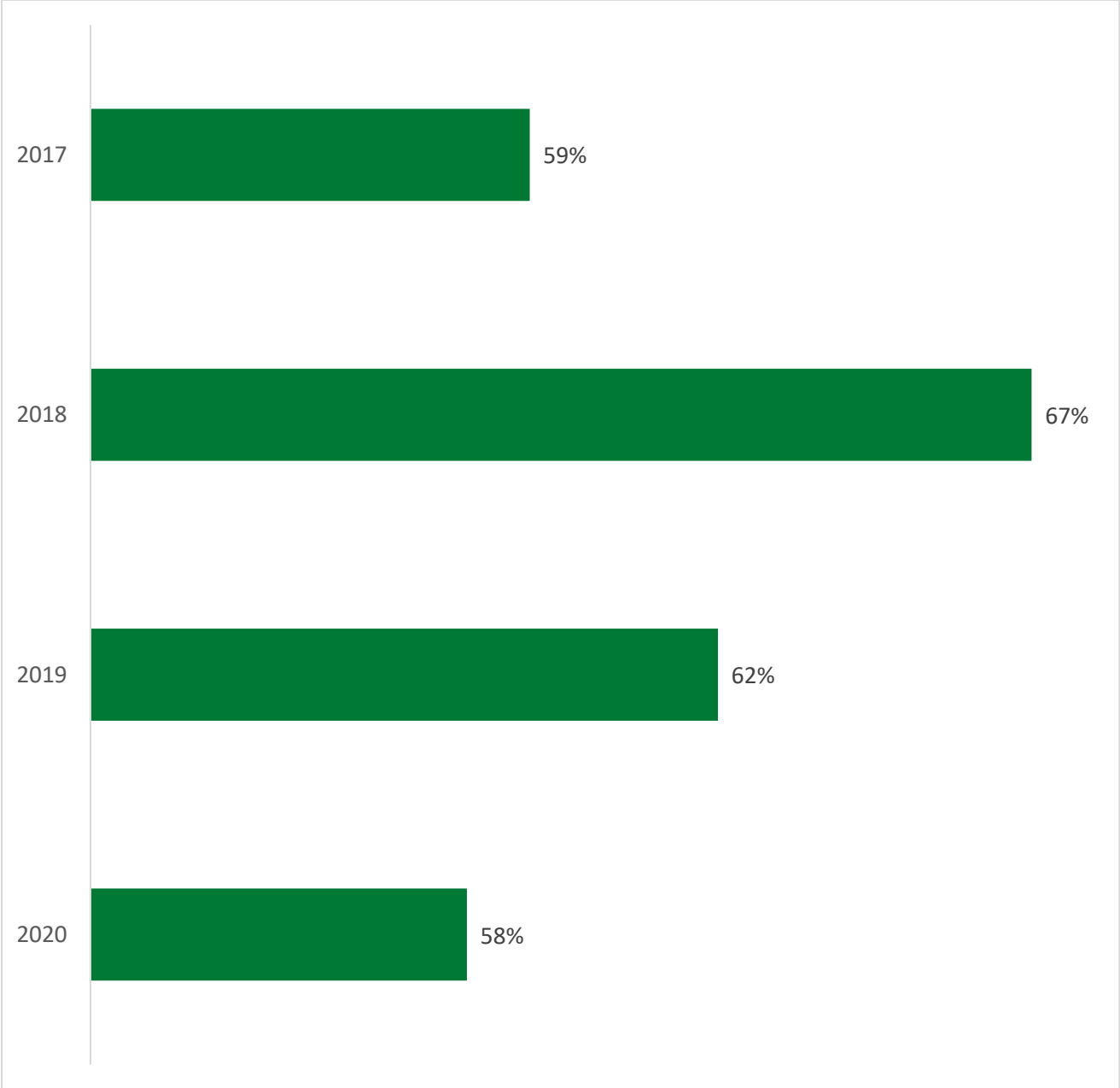


Figure 3: Number of Private Brand and National Brand FDA Recalls from 2017-2020

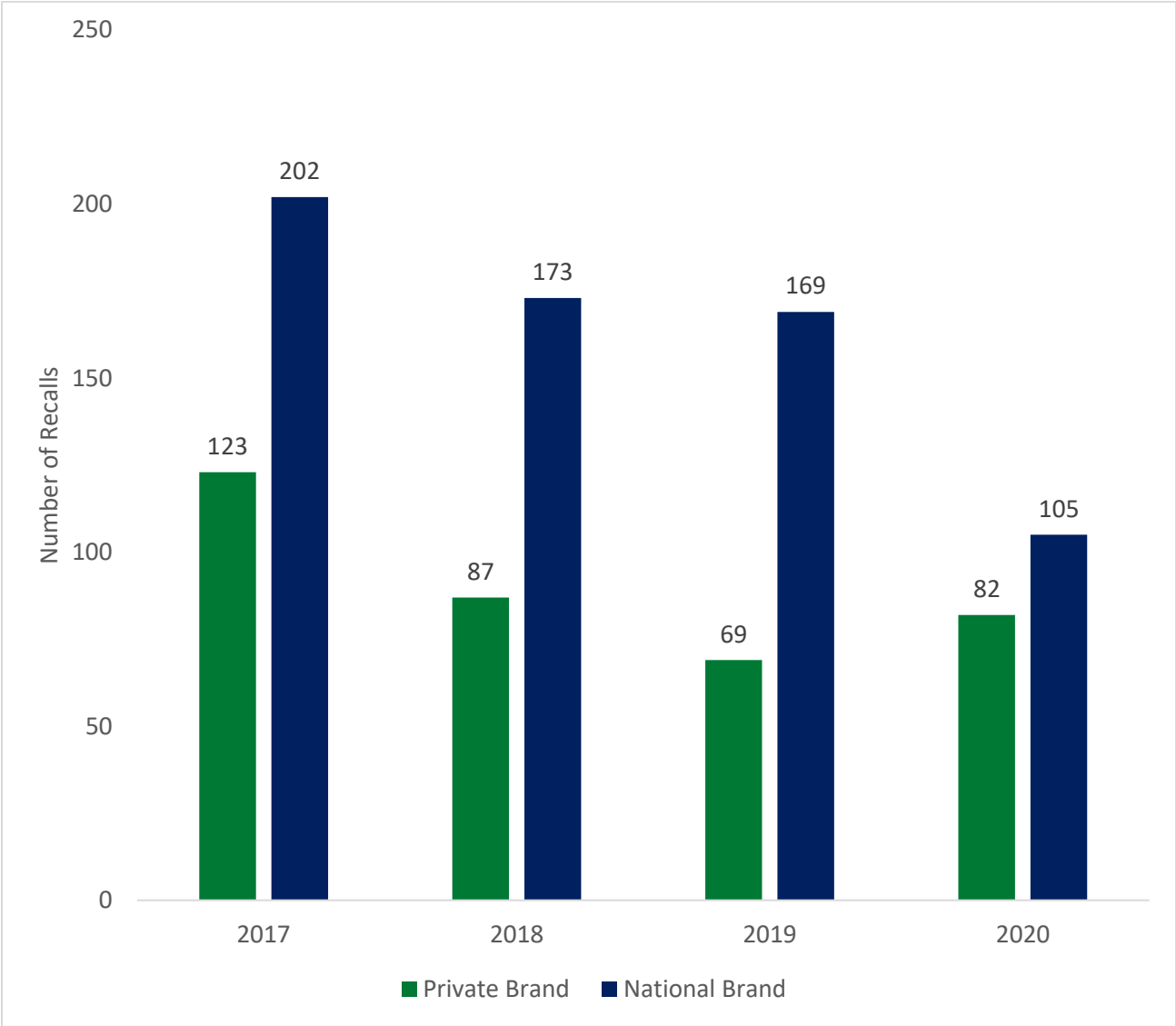
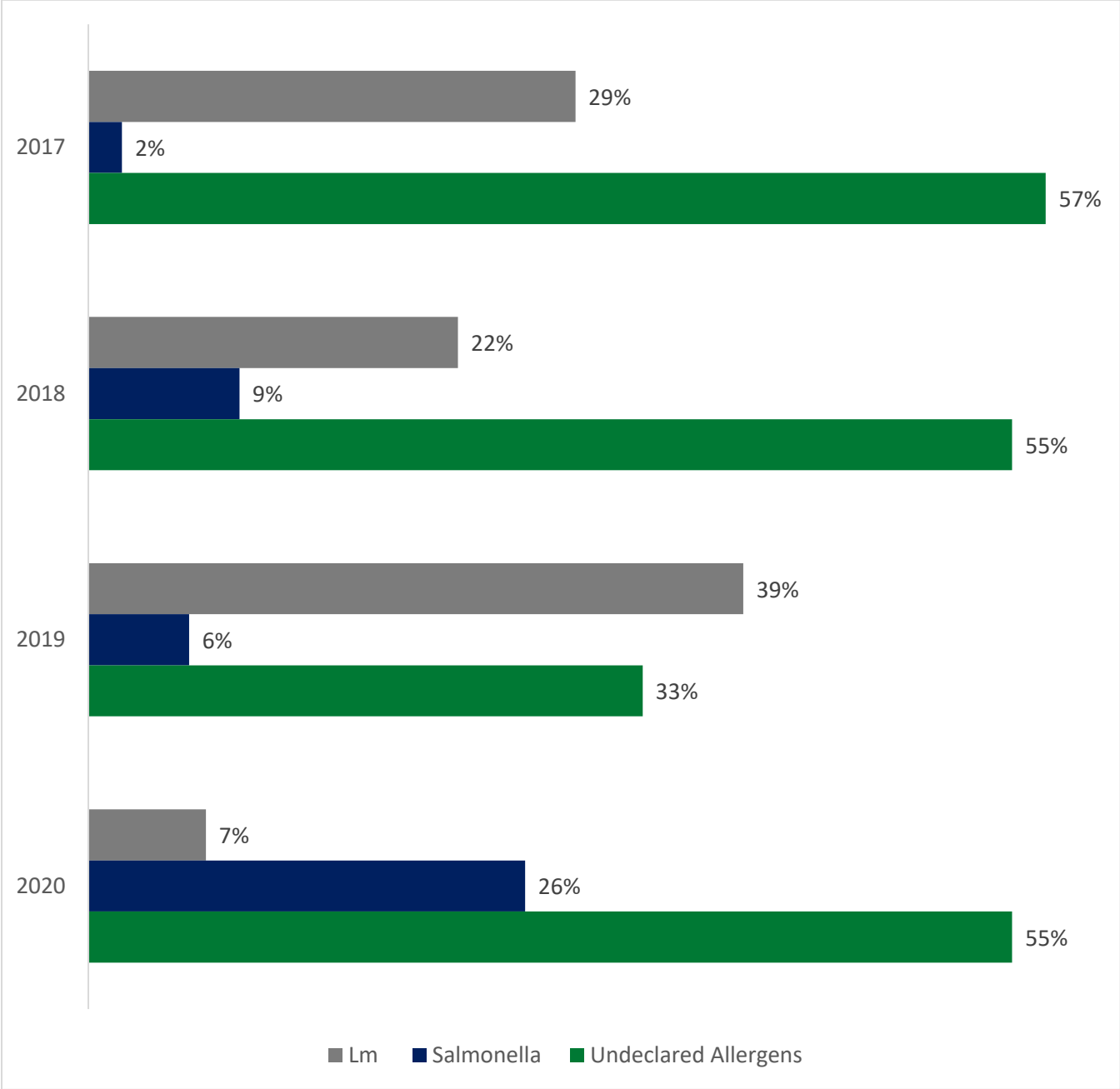


Figure 4: Top Reasons for FDA Recalls of Private Branded Products from 2017-2020



Resources

- [FMI Guidance for Retailers: Product Recalls](#)
- [Partnership for Food Safety Education](#)
- [FMI Retail Allergen Resource Document](#)
- [FMI Food Allergen Awareness Poster](#)
- [IFPTI Allergen Awareness for Food Employees in Retail Grocery Settings Training](#)
- [FMI Crisis Support](#)
- [FMI Recommended Food Safety Practices for Leafy Greens](#)
- [Leafy Greens Action Plan for Tech Enabled Traceability](#)
- [FMI Listeria Action Plan](#)
- [FDA Public Availability of Lists of Retail Consignees to Effectuate Certain Human and Animal Food Recalls](#)
- [FDA Enforcement Reports](#)
- [FDA Investigations of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks](#)
- [FDA Major Product Recalls](#)
- [FMI SafeMark Training and Certification](#)