



REVIEW



Indicator values for food shelf life prediction: A review

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Abstract

The short time that people have to cook their own food has led industries to satisfy the need for ready-to-eat products. This has motivated a progressive increase in studies that can determine the time at which the product can be safely consumed (shelf life). There are several methods for determining the shelf life of products; but regardless of the method used, the key is to know the minimum and/or maximum values of the indicators that define their deterioration. These values of spoilage indicators can change according to the compositional conditions of the food or the conditions under which it is stored during its shelf life. This review provides values for indicators used in tests for the determination of food shelf life, according to their nature, and environmental conditions, as way to be used by researchers as a reference in their predictions. The results of this research show scientific evidence through published articles about indicator values, their changes, referring to food shelf life kinetics. These values can be used for the prediction of food shelf life, for comparison purposes with their respective studies. It will be of importance for consumers, who will be able to use these values as a reference in the storage of these products. Shelf life indicator values for foods not considered in this work should be evaluated or experimented with in future work.

Keywords: Food; indicators of spoilage; shelf life; maximum values; minimum values.

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1. Introduction

The shelf life of a food is defined as the time in which the product has lost its minimum quality characteristics, these can be physical, biochemical, microbiological and sensory (Bassey et al., 2022; Kato et al., 2017; Carrillo & Reyes, 2014; Pedros-Garrido et al., 2020; Singh, 2000). After a period during shelf life storage, foods will inevitably reach their expiration date; after this date, it cannot be consumed (Andrade et al., 2023; Wang & Teplitski, 2023). Quality encompasses many aspects of the food, such as its physical, chemical, microbiological, sensory and nutritional characteristics. Some indicators are more directly associated with the health and safety of products (for example, microbiological indicators); while others define only the loss of quality without necessarily affecting the safety of

the consumer. A food generally has several indicators that define its shelf life and must be monitored in stability experiments over time. These changes may not be detected by consumers; for examples, the loss of bioactive compounds such as some vitamins during their shelf life is a characteristic that is not generally observed by consumers. Other changes manifest quickly at the level of sensory perception and can be taken more quickly as an immediate control response (Gyawali et al., 2022; Kahlon et al., 2021; Kebeya et al., 2021; Li et al., 2023).

In addition to the information provided to the consumer, it is equally important that the producer is aware of the changes that may occur in the product over time, as well as the factors that produce these changes (Van der Vossen-Wijmenga et al., 2022). This information serves

as a basis for making decisions regarding the type of packaging, care during distribution, and the process that must be carried out according to the target market. With this information, the minimum shelf life that is needed for an adequate market cycle can be visualized from the planning stage, since the cost of replacing the product at the point of sale or the consumer rejection due to perceived sensory changes in the product is extremely high (Clodoveo et al., 2021; Forsido et al., 2021; Halloub et al., 2022; Lee & Robertson, 2022; Liu et al., 2022).

Finally, it must be considered that, if the food is assigned a shelf life that is significantly shorter than the actual life of the product, there is a risk of reducing the marketing time and removing a product from the market that is still suitable for consumption (Bressan & Toledo, 2020; Zielinska et al., 2020). On the contrary, an overestimated shelf life can result in consumers receiving a product not suited for consumption. Therefore, knowing with greater certainty the shelf life of a product and predicting its marketing and consumption cycle is fundamentally important in reducing food loss, hence the importance of this type of study (An et al., 2023; Ktenioudaki et al., 2022; Manthou et al., 2019; Tarlak, 2020).

The length of time a product can remain suitable for consumption without changes in quality or safety may depend on several factors, such as the selection of raw materials, the formulation of the food product, the inhibition of spoilage reactions, the material packaging selected and

product storage conditions (Ahari & Naeimabadi, 2021; Bonciu et al., 2022; Fadji et al., 2023; Ghoshal et al., 2023; Lomate et al., 2021; Moradi et al., 2023; Pedros-Garrido et al., 2018; Pivovarov et al., 2021).

Numerous investigations have been conducted and published in the literature to ascertain the shelf life of foods, using accelerated or non-accelerated methods. The shelf life of a product is a generic concept and relative to the environmental conditions until it reaches the final consumer. The objective of this review is to show the different values of shelf life and time indicators, which have been used in recent years and during different investigations; to be compared with the studies themselves. Figure 1 shows an abstract of the review of shelf life indicators in foods.

2. Most used shelf life indicators

In general, many indicators associated with food spoilage can be described, however, a few indicators have been recurrently used to determine shelf life transversally to the type of food under study (dairy, meat, milk, cereals, etc.). Although there is no generic standard that allows the selection of representative indicators of the deterioration of a food, since they depend on the characteristics of the product to be studied (compositional factors, environmental factors, packaging used, among other relevant factors); if there are criteria that can be used (Sistková & Cizková, 2024).

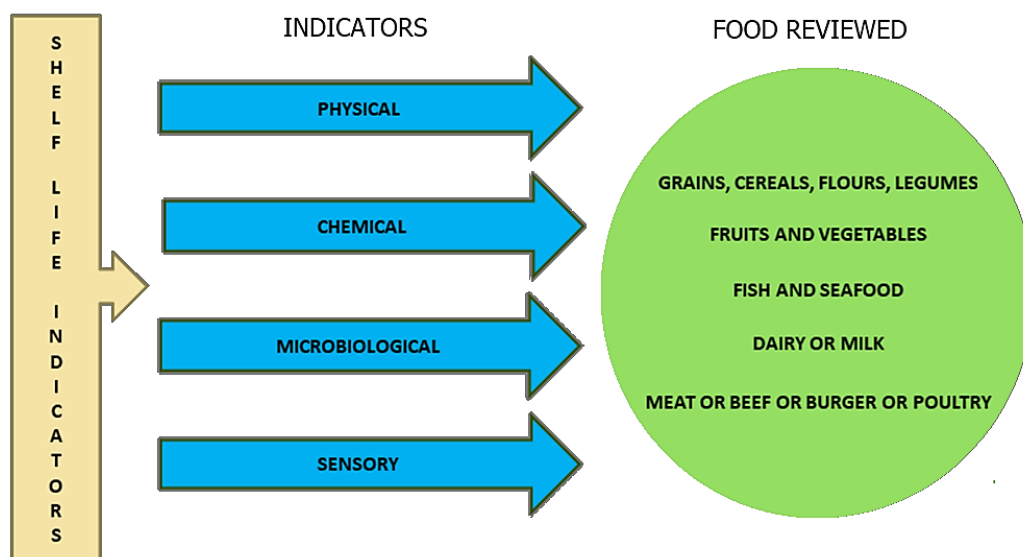


Figure 1. shows an abstract of the work on the review of shelf life indicators in food.

Table 1
Values for Shelf life indicators in grains, cereals, flours, legumes

Product	Physical	Chemical	Microbiological	Sensorial	Experimental Conditions	References
Raw Cornmeal	Color (CIELab) L* 80.82 - 81.87 a* 4.24 to -3.84 b* 30.54 to -29.67	Lipase Activity (U/mL): 0.24 - 0.17 Peroxidase activity (U/g): 148.57 - 71.86 Total carotenoids (µg/g): 16.33 - 16.94 Moisture (% wb): 1.4 - 12.6	Not reported	Not reported	300 gauge (LDPE) bags. Accelerated Test at 38 °C, 90% RH for 60 days.	(Deepa & Hebbar, 2017)
Rice grains variety M206	Total Rice Yield (TRY)% 66.52 - 69.22 Husked Rice Yield (HRY)% 56.07 - 61.29 Whiteness Index (WI): 38.37 - 30.29	Moisture content % dry base (db): 25.03 - 16.15 Free Fatty Acids (FFA)%: 2.87 - 9.57 PV: milliequivalent peroxide /1000 g: 5.72 - 12.80 Iodine Value (IV): 104-98 g I ₂ /100 g	Not reported	Not reported	Rice grain with husk 20 kg Packed in paper bags ambient air dried (AAD) Accelerated test at 35 °C, 65% RH for 10 months	(Ding et al., 2015)
Snacks	% Swelling 26.54 Puncture force (N) 7.15 -16 CIELab L* 8.78 a* 34.27 b* 63.39	Moisture % (wb) 2.36 - 2.39 PV 0 - 470 meqO ₂ /Kg	Not reported	4 point scale Rancidity 1-3 Texture 1-3	Fried wheat-based snacks in safflower oil and heated up to 195 °C. Packed in polypropylene bags (PP) (15 × 20 cm) Stored at 25 °C, 60% RH for 310 days	(Kosegarten et al., 2022)
Biscuits	Firmness (N) 21,13 - 23,80	Antioxidant Capacity DPPH (µmol TROLOX/g): 0.439 - 0.407 PV < 0.5 mmol oxygen/kg W _a 0.53 - 0.62	Fungi and Yeast < 2 UFC/g Mesophilic Bacteria (RAM) < 3 UFC/g Total Coliforms < 3 MPN/g	Texture Honey-free filling Firmness (N): 7.94 - 37.50 Adherence (J): 0.09 - 0.18 Cohesion: 0.10 - 0.10 Elasticity: 0.47 - 2.11 Relaxation time (s): 0.10 - 0.09	Biscuit with honey filling Packed in polypropylene bags (PP) Stored at 20 °C for 6 months	(Patrignani, Battaiotto, & Conforti, 2022)
Fresh noodles	Final water activity: 0,96	Moisture 36 - 22,5%	RAM 6.24 - 6.63 log CFU/ g Yeast 3-8.5 log CFU/g Molds 1.5 - 8 log CFU/g	Not reported	Sterile bags (10 g/bag) Stored at 25 °C for 7 days.	(Guo et al., 2022)
Bread	Specific Volume (SV) mL g ⁻¹ 3.5 - 6 0.89 -0.87	Moisture (%) 37.85 - 36.37 pH 5.1 - 5.2	Molds y yeast (log CFU g ⁻¹) 4,69 - 5.58 <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (log CFU g ⁻¹) 2.62 - 5.12	9 – point hedonic scale (control sample and bread fortified with 2% SPI) Appearance 6.37 - 5.65 Flavour 6.53 - 5.84 Softness /Hardness 6.84 - 6.14 Texture 6.63 - 6.02 General acceptance 7.09 - 6.10	900 g sample Stored at 25 °C, RH 75% for 7 days.	(Chang, Chang, & Chuang, 2023)
Merengue	Specific Volume (SV) (ml/g): 2.63 - 4.17 W _a 0.38 - 0.46 CIELab: L* 88.81- 89.05; a* 0.49 to -0.29; b* 16.92 to -15.74	Not reported	Not reported	Hedonic scale evaluation 1-9 Appearance 4 - 4 Smell 4 - 4 Texture 5 - 5 Flavour 5 - 5	Packaging in dry plastic package Stored at 23 °C for 90 days.	(Yuceer & Caner, 2022)

	<p>Hardness (g): 3271 - 7814 Viscosity: -2.63 to -1.93 Chewiness (g): 31.46 - 19.69 Cohesion: 0.07 - 0.07 Fracturability (g): 1020 - 939 Gumminess (g): 286 - 197 Resilience: 0.03 - 0.04 Elasticity: 0.08 - 0.06</p>					
Cake	<p>W_a 91.2-0.85 Hardness (g): 3.21- 5.83 Fractureability (g): 0.45-3.18 Cohesion: 0.44-0.34 Adhesiveness (gs): -24,04 to -54.85 Chewiness (gmm): 1,01-1.31 L* 72.51 - 66.36 a* -3.52 to -2,04 b* 63.23-56.58</p>	<p>pH 7.74 -7.66 Moisture 33.9 -23 %</p>	<p>RAM (log CFU g⁻¹) 2.50 -5.41 Enterobacteria (log CFU g⁻¹) 0.33- 0.48 Molds y yeast (log CFU g⁻¹) 0- 4.72</p>	<p>9 -point intensity evaluation scale Firmness 3.2 - 2.8 Thickness 4.1 - 1.3 Yellow Color 6 - 4.6 Brilliant 3.5 - 3.3 Porosity 4.8 - 4.1 Cohesiveness 5 - 4.9 Moisture 3.5 - 3.0 Freshness 6.5 - 2.0</p>	<p>7 cuts per box (± 70 g/cut), covered with a sheet of parchment paper and stored in cardboard boxes. Stored at 22 °C for 10 days.</p>	<p>(Moura-Alves et al., 2022)</p>
Granola bar	<p>Energy (Kcal 100 g⁻¹) 386.71 - 394.81 CIELab: L* 45 - 50 a* 11 to -10.9 b* 22.8 - 24.8 a_w 0.36 - 0.45</p>	<p>Moisture (g 100 g⁻¹) %: 6.5 -6.54 Ash %: 2.3 - 2.08 Protein %: 14.5 - 17.27 Fat %: 4.63 - 5.89 Carbohydrates %: 71.76 - 68.18 PV (millieqv./kg sample): 1 - 8 Free Fatty Acids (FFA as % oleic acid): 1.07 - 1.49 TBA (mg MDA/kg sample) 0.01 - 0.21</p>	<p>RAM 10 UFC g⁻¹</p>	<p>Taste 8.10 - 7.18 Initial texture 8.40 - 793 Scent 7.60 - 7.3 Color 8.10 - 7.3 Acceptability 8.0 - 7.58</p>	<p>Granola bar composition 32.5% cereal base mix (oats, wheat, flattened rice, corn flour and corn flakes) and 17.5% nuts (peanuts, cashews, almonds, dates, and raisins). Stored at 28 °C for 30 days.</p>	<p>(Sarka et al., 2019)</p>
Semolina	<p>CIELab L* 65.08 - 79.86 a* 11.52 - 8.96 b* 35.76 - 11.20 Chroma (*) 65.98 - 31.60 Hue angle (h): 75.98 - 63.77 Dimension (16.5 cm × 12.1 cm) Thickness (mm) 50 Breaking length (m) 3.466 Breaking length (width)(m) 2.455 Burst resistance (kg/cm²) 2.4 Tear index (longitudinal) (mN m²/g): 17.0 Tear Index (width) (mN m²/g): 19.8 Traction index (longitudinal) (Nm/g): 33.9 Traction index (known width) (Nm/g): 23.8 OTR (cc/(m² × day × atm)) (27 ± 2 °C y 65 ± 2 % RH): 618.75 WVTR (g/cm 2 /24 h/mm) (27 ± 2 °C y 65 ± 2 % RH): 0,00009 % opaqueness: 4.25</p>	<p>Moisture 14.65 - 12.73 Fat (g/100 g bs) 6.40 - 5.11 Protein (g/100 g bs) 10.0 - 7.9 Ash 1.05 Carbohydrate 73.21 Lutein content (µg/g D.W) 0.75 - 0.2 Antioxidant activity (mM FeSO 4 equivalent/g DW) 100 - 50 Aflatoxins (µg/kg): 1.74 - 1.46 Actividad de captación de radicales TPC (mg GAE/g D.W) 3.5 - 1.0 Reducing sugar content (mg dextrose equivalents/g DW) 6.0 - 8.95</p>	<p>Not reported</p>	<p>General Appearance 7 - 5 Color 8 - 4 Smell 7 - 5 Texture 7 - 4 Flavour 7 - 5 Taste 6 - 5</p>	<p>50 µm thick pure polypropylene (PP) bag 150 g raw corn grits Stored at 23 °C, 80% RH for 120 days</p>	<p>(Pal & Bhattacharjee, 2018)</p>

For example, products where the amount of water and the way it is available in the food (available or bound water) are important to consider; this is the case of fruits and vegetables. **Figure 2** shows the frequency of use of some of the most used indicators in shelf life studies, according to the type of food; during the last 5 years. Certain indicators are more frequent in a type of food. Thus, moisture content is more frequently used in shelf life studies in the case of cereals, flour, baking products, fruits and vegetables. Other indicators such as texture and pH are more frequently used in foods with good protein structure, such as meat and seafood products.

3. Physical deterioration indicators

A relevant indicator that affects the shelf life is water content, which can be expressed as water contained in per every 100 grams of food (fresh or dry). Similarly, water activity (W_a), which measures the amount of free water in the food within a value between 0 to 1 (without dimensional value), has been widely used to measure its stability. Water, as the universal solvent of life, is responsible for deterioration of food by serving as a means of transport and an element of life in chemical and microbial reactions (Fennema & Tannenbaum, 2008). Other indicators in this category are the mechanical properties of the food; which in turn can be affected by both the moisture content; as well as by modifications of other compounds inside.

Among these indicators are the texture (measured in g or newton) and the viscosity (Pa·s) of the food (depending on its solid or liquid state). These indicators can be measured instrumentally or sensory through a panel of judges.

Color measurement is a transversal physical indicator to be considered in food shelf life studies, and it is widely used to improve food quality. There are several ways to express color in food. Instrumentally, predetermined color spaces are used, and their value scale depends on the chosen space (RGB, CIE Lab; HSV, among others). Color can also be measured sensory.

Other indicators, depending on the nature of the product, may be density, water uptake, water loss, particle agglomeration, respiration (in the case of fruits and vegetables), among other physical indicators.

4. Chemical deterioration indicators

Chemical changes inevitably occur during food deterioration. These can arise during handling, processing and storage. Changes in composition often occur; for example, in the acidity content (measuring pH or % acidity %), in the degradation of proximal compounds such as lipid content, sugar content (brix) and/ or proteins. Furthermore, these degradations can generate secondary compounds such as volatile nitrogenous bases (associated with microbial activity), triethylamine, biogenic amines and/ or formaldehyde formation.

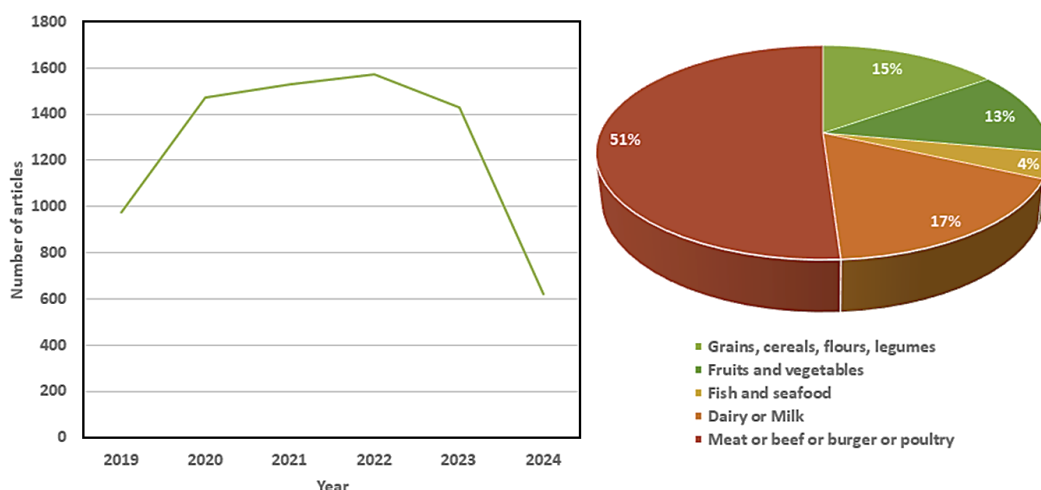


Figure 2. Articles of shelf life indicators in different type of food the 2019 to 2024. The search methodology was performed in the web of science database (scielo, scopus, wos), by subject and the keywords used were: shelf life; type of food (grains, cereals, flours, legumes; fruits and vegetables; fish and seafood; dairy or Milk; meat or beef or burger or poultry) and indicators (moisture, water activity, peroxide value, microbiological, texture, thiobarbituric acid, pH, antioxidant capacity, CIE Lab, sensory evaluation).

Other types of chemical deterioration during product storage are browning and oxidation of compounds. Browning is an oxidation reaction that can occur by both enzymatic and non-enzymatic action and the best way to quantify it is using color as an indirect indicator of the reaction. Directly, the enzymatic activity of enzymes responsible for catalyzing the reaction can be quantified. Enzymatic browning disrupts compounds responsible for antioxidant capacity, for example, the content of phenols which have been associated with such bioactive property (Anand et al., 2018; Mayookha et al., 2023; Sikora & Swieca, 2018; Yang et al., 2022). Oxidation is another deterioration indicator widely used in shelf life studies; mainly there are the oxidations of lipid compounds, which can be qualified by measuring the peroxide value (POV, an indicator of early lipid oxidation) as well as the content of terminal oxidation compounds can also be oxidized, for example myoglobin in red meat or vitamins in fruits and vegetables. Indicators of chemical importance with bioactive capacities have been included as indicators in the recent years, including the quantification of properties such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and carcinogenic capacity.

5. Microbiological deterioration indicators

Pathogenic microorganisms cannot be present in foods for consumption, the indicators taken into account in shelf life studies are: the content of viable mesophiles (RAM); psychrophile content (Santos et al., 2020), total coliform content, enterobacteria; molds and yeasts. Units are usually expressed in logarithmic units in base 10 of viable cells (CFU) per gram or milliliter. In general, in the case of viable mesophilic content, the maximum permissible limit has been established at value of 10⁷ CFU/g or ML; except for those products that, due to their nature, may contain higher values (fermented products among others).

6. Sensory deterioration indicators

The quantification of sensory aspects of foods is one of the very useful and necessary aspects in most food shelf life studies. They can be used to corroborate appreciable changes in sensory aspects detected by consumers. Aspects of flavour, color, texture, smell, among others, have been considered in shelf life studies. In this case, such sensory indicators need to be carefully

measured through strict evaluated protocols (generally using a Likert scale), due to human subjectivity in evaluation. Since there is no predetermined scale for these evaluations, it is sometimes difficult to make comparisons between studies for the same product, due to the differences in the protocols during the measurement (Freitas & Costa, 2006; Kebeya et al., 2021; Lauteri et al., 2023). Table 1 to 5 report start to end values for shelf life indicators in different foods arbitrarily grouped according to their affinity, and according to the conditions used in the experiments conducted recorded by the scientific literature during the last 5 years.

7. Values for Shelf-life indicators in grains, cereals, flours, legumes

Values of indicators used in physical, chemical, microbiological and sensory shelf life tests for intermediate moisture products such as bread and some cereals (Pande et al., 2024; Wickramaarachchi et al., 2024), as well as those with low free water content such as flours; are shown in Table 1. Whole or partially sifted flours have limited storage stability, while degermed flour is often stable for up to 3 months (Gwirtz & Garcia-Casal, 2014). The shelf life of flour can be very variable depending on the origin and degree of processing (Sylichuk, Tsyrunikova, Zuiko, & Riznyk, 2021), however, a shelf life of 90 days is estimated for flours with lipid content (>10%). After three months, integral, whole grain or semi-whole grain flours lose quality. Refined flours (<10% fat) can have up to more than a year of shelf life. Bakery and confectionery products considered as intermediate humidity products, fresh are losing their shelf life due to microbiological growth, crumb hardening (retrogradation and moisture loss), less resilient crumb, loss of flavour and rancid aroma. The use of freezing in these products is a current trend, and it is one of the ways to guarantee a product with a longer shelf life to the end consumer, with few changes in its appearance, taste and aroma as long as cold chains are not broken in the storage process.

8. Shelf lie indicators in fruits and vegetables

Values of indicators used in physical, chemical, microbiological and sensory shelf life tests for fruits and vegetables with good free moisture content are shown in Table 2. The expected deterioration of a fruit or vegetable begins

because after the optimal ripening point, the tissues damaged by the fruits own enzymatic activity allow the entry and attack of bacteria, fungi and molds. The process leads to the visual change from a ripe vegetable to a rotten one. To control the deterioration of fruits and vegetables, it is necessary to store them in cool, dry and dark place. The speed of enzymatic reactions increases the higher the temperature, the amount of water present in the plant itself and the environmental humidity (Qi et al., 2022; Romanazzi & Mourni, 2022; Zambon et al., 2023). To keep fruits and vegetables fresh for longer periods, it is good to keep them in environmentally friendly packaging that complies with further extending the shelf life of perishable foods (Palanisamy et al., 2024) and to implement simple practices such as avoiding damaging a perishable product and having clear storage temperatures ideally at 5 °C without affecting their texture and flavor without affecting their texture and taste (Burdon et al., 2017; Fischer et al., 2011; Inestroza-Lizardo et al., 2018; Liplap et al., 2013; Ogura et al., 1975). The use of semipermeable containers in the care of vegetables such as lettuce, chard, broccoli, or basil that prevent dehydration or loss of water from the products is common. For example, by using perforated bags that have a level of ventilation or opening. Practically all available fruits tolerate a temperature of 5-6 °C in refrigerators, the only exception being bananas, which are best kept out of the refrigerator (Faradilla et al., 2017; Sanchez-Rivera & Bello-Perez, 2008; Yang et al., 2008).

9. Shelf life indicators in fish and sea foods

Worldwide, at least 10 million tons of seafood products are spoiled or damaged each year during transport or storage. Monitoring the freshness of seafood products in real time has become especially important (Cui et al., 2024). Values of indicators used in physical, chemical, microbiological and sensory shelf life tests for seafood (fish and shellfish) are shown in Table 3. Seafood is a highly perishable food product due to microbiological, chemical and enzymatic reactions, which are adapted to function even at low temperatures; and which are the main causes of the rapid deterioration of its quality (Tavakoli et al., 2022). Currently, refrigeration and frozen storage are the most common methods for preserving fish. However, refrigeration

alone cannot provide prolonged shelf life periods, and freezing, although extending shelf life, may worsen sensory characteristics. Therefore, there is a need to preserve seafood for long periods without exposing it to sub-zero temperatures (de Rezende et al., 2022).

10. Shelf life indicators in dairy products

Values of indicators used in physical, chemical, microbiological and sensory shelf life tests for dairy products are shown in Table 4. Milk is a nutritious food that has a short shelf life and requires careful handling. It is a highly perishable food because it is an excellent medium for the growth of microorganisms, especially bacterial pathogens, which can cause product deterioration and illness in consumers. Processing milk allows it to be preserved for days, weeks or months and helps reduce foodborne illnesses. The shelf life of milk can be extended by several days through techniques such as cooling (which is the factor most likely to influence the quality of raw milk) or fermentation. Pasteurization is a procedure by which, through heat treatment, the useful life of milk is prolonged, and the number of possible pathogenic microorganisms is reduced to levels that do not represent a serious danger to health. Milk can be further processed into easily transportable, concentrated, high-value dairy products with long shelf life, such as butter, cheese and ghee (clarified butter). Other studies have been conducted by adding chestnut shell extract to cheese to improve the nutritional benefits and shelf life of fresh cheese, while reducing food industry waste (Ferreira et al., 2024).

11. Shelf life indicators for meat products

Values of indicators used in physical, chemical, microbiological and sensory shelf life tests for meat products are shown in Table 5. Fresh red meats are highly perishable and their stability depends on intrinsic factors, such as their composition and initial microbial load (Dusková et al., 2024); and extrinsic factors, such as packaging and storage temperature, which, in the end, is the most important condition for their deterioration (González et al., 2014). Lipid oxidation is another variable that can affect the shelf life of meat, and can be detected by changes in flavour, color, texture, nutritional value and the formation of possible toxic compounds (Bassey et al., 2022; Bottegai et al., 2023).

Table 2
Values for shelf life indicators in fruits and vegetables

Product	Physical	chemical	Microbiological	Sensorial	Experimental conditions	References
Mangoes	L*: 61.5 - 53.4 Chroma (C*): 61.5 - 53.4 Hue angle h°: 88.8 - 85.9 Firmness (N) 04 - 0.2	SST (%) 13.1 - 10.5	RAM: 1.3 - 4.7 log CFU/g B. <i>psychrophiles</i> : 1.0 - 3.1 log UFC/g Molds and yeast: 1.7 - 4.3 log UFC/g Total coliforms: 1.0 - 2.7 log UFC/g	Hedonic scale 6 - 9 Smell: 7.7 - 2.6 Appearance: 7.9 - 2.9 Brightness: 8.4 - 3.0 Color: 7.8 - 2.7 Firmness: 8.8 - 4.2 Flavour: 8.8 - 4.3 Sweetness: 9.0 - 6.2	Mangoes peeled and cut into cubes 2.5 cm on each side. 250 mL polyethylene trays were packed with 80 g of cubes, sealed. Stored at 100 °C for 18 days	(Salinas-Hernandez, Gonzalez-Aguilar, & Tiznado-Hernandez, 2015)
Oranges	Weight 7.5% - 40% Loss of weight PP 0.0% - 38.2% Firmness N 15.09 - 1.02 Breathing frequency (Mg/kg.h) 13 - 16	Polyphenol oxidase activity (U min ⁻¹ g ⁻¹) PPO: 0.5-3.2 Peroxidase activity (U min ⁻¹ g ⁻¹) PO: 0.5 - 4.0 Respiration rate: 12.03 - 16.20 mg/kg.h Titratable acidity TA: 0.99 - 0.11 pH: 4.13 - 4.09 SST: 12.03% - 24.03% Antioxidant %: 70 - 42 ascorbic acid (ug ascorbic/mg) 42 - 30 Decomposition rate %: 20 - 76	RAM (log CFU/g) 1.30 - 8.75 Yeast (log CFU/g) 2 - 8.75	Not reported	Stored at 4 °C for 20 days	(Dulta et al., 2022)
Almonds	Not reported	PV: 0.57-1.26 (meq peroxide/kg oil) AGL: 0.21 -0.21 (% oleic) Conjugated dienes: 0.213 - 0.302 (%) α-tocopherol: 435 - 334(mg/kg oil) β- + γ-tocopherol: 34.3 - 31.7 (mg/kg) - δ-tocopherol: 9.38 - 8.24(mg/kg)	Not reported	Average consumer hedonic score 8 - 4 (10 th Month)	of Lightly toasted almonds (LR) 300g husked almonds, raw Nonpareil almonds with skin. The beans were roasted under two different conditions: 115 ± 6 °C for 60 min and 152 ± 6 °C for 15 min to produce a "light" and "dark" degree of roasting, respectively. Stored at 150 °C, RH 39% at 1 to 12 month intervals.	(Franklin et al., 2017)
Tomatoes	Loss of weight (%) 100 - 94	petunidin 3-(p-coumaroyl-rutinoside)-5-glucoside mg L ⁻¹ : 25 - 150 Carotenoids mg kg ⁻¹ : 20 - 125 pH: 4.08 - 4.14 Acidity (%): 6 - 5.9 SST %: 4.5 - 5	Not reported	Not reported	The tomatoes were placed in an incubator, with a photoperiod of 16 h/8 h, photon flux density of 80 μmol m ⁻² s ⁻¹ Stored at 12 °C + luz, RH 70% for 3 weeks in 0.5 L transparent plastic boxes.	(Petric, Kiferle, Perata, & Gonzali, 2018)
Avocados	L* 37.44 - 24.44 a* -12.56 - 5.63 b* 18.3 - 3.83 Firmness (N): 143.13 - 14.61 Weight loss (%): 0 - 4.04	Total soluble solids (TSS) % 15.6 - 3.52 pH 6.68 - 7.08 Lipids (bs) %: 27.29 - 33.30 CO ₂ : (mmol kg ⁻¹ d ⁻¹): 11.34 - 78.38	Not reported	Deterioration index (scale 1-5) 1 - 4.80	Hass Avocado Packaging in macro-perforated polyethylene bags (Soiplast Ltda., Bogotá, Colombia). The bags were 10 × 12 cm with a thickness of 0.25 mm and 5 mm perforations distributed in squares every 6 cm. Fruit weight 200.05 g Stored at 9 °C, 80% RH for 35 days	(Sierra et al., 2019)
Lettuce	Exudate measurement %: 16 - 10 Firmness: 0.0026 - 0.0025 CIELab L* 85.62 - 59.70 a* 6.97 - 11.06 b* 23.12 - 28.87	pH 7 - 6 Acidity %: 0.02 - 0.05 Moisture %: 95.7 - 92.53 Chlorophyll (mg/g) 0.038 - 0.019	<i>Escherichia coli</i> in 10 days (Log CFU/g) 9.35 - 7.57 Molds and Yeast in 15 days (Log CFU/g) 0.00 - 3.18	Smell 1.40 - 3.40 Flavour 1.20 - 3.20 Appearance 1.40 - 5.00 Crunch 1.40 - 3.00 Browning 1.20 - 3.20	100 g of freshly cut lettuce were packaged in lightweight polypropylene nano-packs. Stored at 4 °C for 12 days	(Farahanian et al., 2023)
Chickpeas	Respiration rate RR (ml kg ⁻¹ h ⁻¹) RRQ2 (Oxygen respiration rate) 21.43 - 5	Phenols (mg/100 g) 87.19 - 125,66	RAM (log CFU/g): 4.8 - 10	Not reported	Green chickpeas Whole pods	(Kaur et al., 2022)

	<p>RRCO2 (Carbon dioxide respiration rate) 21.66 - 7 Firmness (g) 2069.4 - 2480 Color change: 3.4 - 7.5 Transpiration rate (g H₂O kg⁻¹ h⁻¹) 65% RH 0.690 85% RH 0.212 Physiological loss of weight (PLW, %): 1-3.97</p>	<p>Chlorophyll (mg/100 g) 26.01 - 24.21 Ascorbic acid (mg/100 g) 46.88 - 33.65 O₂ (%) (oxygen level) 20 - 5 CO₂ (%): 5 - 9</p>			<p>Packaged in 38 µm LDPE perforated films oxygen permeability (cm³ µm/m²*h*atm) 7708 Water vapor transmission rate (WVTR) to 37,8 °C and 90% of RH (g µm/m 2 day) 400 Weight filler packs (g) 250 Stored at 5 °C, RH 80% for 12 days.</p>	
Carrots	<p>Firmness (N): 6.58 - 1.27 Loss of weight %: 0 - 14.29</p>	<p>Beta carotene (mg/kg) 86.23 - 21.69</p>	Not reported	Not reported	<p>Samples in trays Stored at 28 °C for 28 days</p>	(Nguyen, 2020)
Apples	<p>Respiration rate % 9.18 - 8.47 Firmness (g): 7682 - 7401 Puncture force(g) 394 - 273 CIELab L* 40.19 - 37.12 a* 42.11 - 47.35 b* 18.29 - 16.04</p>	<p>Loss of weight (%): 0.00 - 9.83 SST (%): 12.29 - 15.17 Acidity (%): 0.26 - 0.18 Catechin: 27,13 - 26,47 (mg/100 g bs) Epicatechin: 109.24 - 108.05 (mg/100 g bs) Chlorogenic acid: 90.62 - 89.37 (mg/100 g bs) Floridzina: 23.55 - 22.45 (mg/100 g bs) Quercetin (3- O - galactoside) 9.88 - 8.91 (mg/100 g bs)</p>	Not reported	Not reported	<p>Combination packaging of biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP) and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) film with a thickness of 30 and 50 µm. 1 kg of apple Stored at 2 °C for 180 days.</p>	(Mangaraj, Thakur, & Nishad, 2023)
Bananas	<p>Firmness (N) 36 - 10 L* 80.01 - 55.01 Loss of weight (%) 4 - 7.3</p>	<p>Total antioxidant activity (%): 60.01 - 58 Total phenol content (mg GALg⁻¹FW) 190 - 175 Ascorbic acid (mg/100grFW): 10.03 - 5.0 Polygalacturonase activity (PA) (mmol kg⁻¹s⁻¹): 1.52 - 2.53 SST (%): 11.02 - 20.07 Acidity (%): 0.23 - 0.58 Ethylene (ng kg⁻¹s⁻¹) 0.02 - 0.036</p>	RAM (Log CFU/g): 3.2 - 3.7	Not reported	<p>Cavendish banana cultivation The selected fruits were healthy and had no physical damage or fungal contamination, and were uniform in shape, size, color and state of ripeness. Stored at 15 °C, RH 90% for 20 days</p>	(Hosseini, Zahedi, Abacia, & Karimi, 2018)

Table 3
 Values for Shelf life indicators in fish and sea foods

Product	Physical	Chemical	Microbiological	Sensorial	Experimental Conditions	References
Salmon	<p>CIELab L*: 49.55 - 53.03 a*: 12.43 - 11.74 b*: 15.41 - 16.90 Loss of weight (%): 2-5.17 Water retention (%): 95.59 - 75</p>	<p>pH: 6.40 - 7.32 TBA (µg MDA/g de salmon): 0.02 - 0.3 TVB-N (mg N/100 g de salmon): 12.83 - 60</p>	Not reported	<p>Scale 1 - 5 Smell: 2 - 5 Acceptability: 4 - 1</p>	<p>Fresh Atlantic Salmon 23 fillet weight 1500g Stored at 4 °C for 13 days with packaging of 8% biological antioxidant macerated in ethanol from carob seeds (CSE).</p>	(Ouahioun et al., 2022)
Rock mullet (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)	Not reported	<p>TVB-N: 27 - 41 (mgN/100g) PV: 0.04 - 1.02 (mmole CPO/kg) TBA: 0.02 - 8.2 (mg MDA eq/kg) Cadaverine: 0 - 19 (mg/kg)</p>	Not reported	<p>Rejection score, simple linear model score (5 -15): 0.02 - 9</p>	<p>Mullet salmon fillets Specie (<i>Mugil cephalus</i>) Stored on ice at 0 °C for 13 days</p>	(Pliavtepe-Celik & Buzrul, 2021)

			Putrescine: 0.1 - 17 (mg/kg)			
Trout	Common packaging (CP)	Not reported	TBA: 0.07 - 1.11 mg MDA/kg TVB-N: 10 - 20 mg/100 g	Aerobic plate count (APC): 3.53 - 6.5 log UFC/g	Not reported	Rainbow trout A 30 g sample was packed in a 120 × 170 mm low-density polyethylene ziplock bag. Raw rainbow trout, pieces 1 cm thick, with an approximate weight of 10 g Stored at 4 °C for 12 days.
	Vacuum packaging (VP)	Not reported	TBA: 0.07-0.2 mg MDA/kg TVB-N: 9 - 18 mg/100 g	Aerobic plate count (APC): 3.53 - 6.52 log UFC/g	Not reported	
	Modified atmosphere packaging (MAP)	Not reported	TBA: 0.07-1.3 mg MDA/kg TVB-N:10-17 mg/100 g	Aerobic plate count (APC):3.53-7.0 log UFC/g	Not reported	
Shrimp (<i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i>)	Hardness 14.68 - 2.32 N Elasticity: 0.7 - 0.1 mm		pH: 7.62 - 8.98 Thiobarbituric acid index (TBA): 0.4-2.10 mg MDA/kg Peroxide value (PV): 0.2-2.44 meq/kg Volatile basic nitrogen compounds (TVB-N): 10.05-54.05 mg/100 g	Total plate count (TPC): 2.31-10.04 log CFU/g	Sensory score (0 - 12 days) 9.00 - 2.64	Average weight of a shrimp was 18 ± 2 g Packaging plastic bags Stored at 4 °C for 20 days
Clam		Not reported	TVBN (mg/100g): 13.78 - 36.05 Ph: 6.4 - 5.25	RAM (log ufc/g): 1.7 - 3.6 Lactic bacteria (log ufc/g): 0.95 - 2.92	5-point descriptive scale (5 = "very good"; 4 y 3 = "good"; 2 y 1 = "bad"). Appearance: 4.3 a 3.2 taste: 4.3 a 3.4 smell: 4.1 a 3.2 Texture: 4.0 a 3.1	Treated in brine in 4% sodium chloride (NaCl) solution for 2 h. vacuum packed in plastic bags Stored at 4 °C for 30 days
		Not reported	Moisture content: 6.89% - 2.26% Peroxide value (POV): 20 - 35 m _{eq} /kg lipid p-Anisidine value (AnV): 20 - 38 Thiobarbituric acid TBARS (mgMDA/kg): 2.5 - 13 Total oxidation value TOTOX: 40 - 80 Acidity value AV (mgNaOH/g): 12.5-27.5 Phospholipid class analysis PL (%): 20.06 - 20.10 Changes in phospholipid class compositions (mol %): 43.46 - 42.03 Fatty acid analysis FAA: 2.30 - 7.55 Polyunsaturated fatty acids PUFA (50.62% - 56.35% of total fatty acids)	Not reported	Not reported	Dried clams, were obtained from a local market in Dalian, Liaoning, China <i>Macra chinensis Philippi</i> (MP) Stored at 50 °C for 20 days
Mussel	Loss of weight (%): 0 - 1.4 Elasticity (mm): 7.8 - 3.7 Chicness (mJ): 5.9 - 1.5		pH: 6.8 - 7.24 TVBN (mg/100 g): 8.5 - 14 myofibrillar protein (mg/g): 57 - 22 Ca, ATPase activity (U/mg): 0.19 - 0.11 Total hydrogen sulfide content (mmol/g):	RAM (log ufc/g): 3.15 - 2.38 Staphylococcus (log ufc/g): 2.76 - 1.90 2.76 - 1.85 E. Coli (log ufc/g): 2.76 - 1.85	Not reported	Frozen half shell mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>). (polystyrene trays) Stored at -18 °C for 90 days
Shrimp	Shear stress (N): 23 - 17 Exuded loss (%): 2.9 - 5.0 CIElab L*: 64.96 - 58.27 a*: 7.86 - 5.54 b*: 5.58 - 3.73		TVBN mg/100g): 4.5 - 23 PV (meq O ₂ /kg): 1 - 8.2 TBA (mg MDA/kg): 0.3 - 2.7 pH: 6.63 - 7.62 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA, q/100 g): 28.98 - 22.43	RAM (log ufc/g): 2.0 - 6.8 Psychrophilic bacteria (log ufc/g): 1.9 - 6.3 Pseudomonas (log ufc/g):1.5 - 6.2 Enterobacteria (log ufc/g): 1.1 - 6.0 Lactic acid bacteria LAB (log ufc/g): 1.4 - 5.5	Not reported	Harpioschylid mantis shrimp Cooked and peeled, in polystyrene trays and multilayer bag with LLDPE and polyamide. Stored at 4 °C for 15 days.

			linoleic acid (g/100 g): 1.31 - 0.71 linolenic acid (g/100 g): 0.19 - 0.18			
Oysters	Muscle shear force (g): 528.9 - 246.0 CIELab L*: 72.19 - 70.51 a*: -0.52 - 0.82 b*: 9.43 - 11.17	pH: 6.55 - 6.0 TVBN (mg/100 g): 4.37 - 27.77	RAM (log ufc/g): 5.66 - 5.75 Staphylococcus (log ufc/g): 2.76 - 1.90 4.09 - 3.23 E. Coli (log ufc/g): 2.74 - 2.40	Not reported	Fresh oyster meat, 6.0 ± 0.5 cm in length, Cooled in ice water in polystyrene containers, soaked in 0.1% potassium sorbate Stored at 4 °C for 7 days	(Tantratrian & Kaepfen, 2020)
Octopus	Not reported	TVBN (mg/100g): 3.50 a 16.0 TMA-N (mg/10g): 2.7 a 3.8	psicotropicas (log ufc/g): 6.4 - 3.9 Staphylococcus (log ufc/g): 4.7 - 2.8 Enterobacteria (log ufc/g): 4.7 - 2.8 Pseudomonas (log ufc/g): 3.2 - 1.8 Vibrio (log ufc/g): 4.5 - 2.0	QIM inverted scale sensory test (0 point is the best quality and any higher score is worse quality.) Smell: 0.91 - 3.17 Texture: 0.91 - 3.67 Color: 1.27 - 6.33	Red octopus (octopus maya) with an average weight of 896 g Stored at 4 °C for 18 hours to 100 hours	(Gullian- Klanian et al., 2016)
Atlantic horse mackerel (Trachurus trachurus)	Water content (%) 79 -77 Mass loss (%) 0.05 - 2.8 Protein Viscosity (Pa*s) 1.4-1.3 CIELab L* 34 - 35 a* 2.5 - 2.2 b* 3.5 - 5.5 Hardness (N) 4.8 - 7.8	TVB-N (mg TVB-N/100 g mackerel) 15.3 - 135 pH 6.8 - 8.2 TBARS (mg MDA/kg of mackerel) 2.0 - 7.0	Total viable bacteria (log UFC/g) 5.8 -10 Total aerobic mesophiles (log UFC/g) 6.0 - 9.8 Pseudomonas spp. (log UFC/g) 4.4 - 10 H 2 S-producing microorganisms (log UFC/g) 8.0 - 9.0 Enterobacteriaceae (log UFC/g) 3.0 -6.0 Lactic acid bacteria (log UFC/g) 3.0-7.0	Not reported	Atlantic horse mackerel filets They were randomly divided into 5 lots. Stored at 4 °C for 13 days	(Zarandona et al., 2021)

Table 4
Values for shelf life indicators in dairy products

Product	Physical	Chemical	Microbiological (log CFU/mL)	Sensory (1-7)	Experimental conditions	References
Fermented milk	Viscosity (50 s ⁻¹ , mPa s): 7.3 ± 1.7 Serum separation (mL/50 mL): 3 - 20 mL	Acidity (% lactic acid): 0.46% - 0.45% pH: 4.05 - 4.00	RAM: 0.2 - 4.2 Lactobacillus: 7.6 - 7 Streptococcus: 8.4 - 8.2 Yeast/molds: 0.3 to 4.8	Consistency: 5 - 3 General acceptance: 3 - 2.8	Ultrasound treatment 25% 10 minutes stored at 4 °C for 60 days	(Kilic-Akyilmaz et al., 2023)
Raw milk	Not reported	Acidity (°Th): 12 - 44 Protein (mg/mL): 32 - 12.5	APC (aerobic plate count): 2.7 to 10.5 RAM: 2.5 - 8.5 Enterobacteria: 2.3 to 7.8 Psychrophiles: 2.4 - 7.8 Staphylococcus: 1.2 - 5	Smell (scale 0 - 20): 19.4 - 3.4 Color and brightness: 19.6 - 7.2	Stored at 4 °C for 12 days	(Li et al., 2023)
Pasteurized milk	Not reported	Acidity (°Th): 35.5 - 21 Protein (mg/mL): 32.5 - 20	APC (aerobic plate count): 1.8 - 10 RAM: 0.8 - 3.6 Enterobacteria: 0.1 - 3.6 Pseudomonas: 0.5 - 9 Yeasts Psychrophiles: 1 - 6.8	Smell (scale 0 - 20): 20 - 4.2 Color and brightness: 20 - 6	Stored at 4 °C for 11 to 37 days.	
Milk formula		Vitamin C (mg/100 g): 17.2 - 15.7 Vitamin A (µg/100 g): 152 - 132 Vitamin E (mg/100 g): 5.3 - 4.4			Infant milk formula Stored at 25 °C for 6 months	(Jiang et al., 2021)

			<p>Lipid hydroperoxides (µmol/kg): 17 - 30 Propionaldehyde (µmol/kg): 19.5 - 25.7 Hexanal (µmol/kg): 0.93 - 0.95 ∑ PUFA: polyunsaturated fatty acids (mg/100g): 183.3 - 182.7 ∑ AGPI n-3: polyunsaturated fatty acids n-3 (mg/100 g): 37.4 - 36.3</p>			
			<p>Vitamin C (mg/100 g): 17.2 - 11.3 Vitamin A (µg/100 g): 152 - 144 Vitamin E (mg/100 g): 5.3 - 4.4 Lipid hydroperoxides (µmol/kg): 17 - 32 Propionaldehyde (µmol/kg): 19.5 - 35.8 Hexanal (µmol/kg): 0.93 - 14.3 ∑ PUFA: polyunsaturated fatty acids (mg/100 g): 183.3 - 179.2 ∑ AGPI n-3: polyunsaturated fatty acids n-3 (mg/100 g): 37.4 - 35.6</p>			Stored at 40 °C for 6 months.
Cottage cheese	Not reported	Not reported		<p>Lactobacillus (log ufc/g): 0.1 - 2.7 Coliforms (log ufc/g): 0.1 - 2.7 RAM (log ufc/g): 0.4 - 5.7 Cocci (log ufc/g): 0.01 - 1.3</p>	Not reported	<p>Stored at 8 °C for 48h</p> <p>(Chaturvedi, Basu, Singha, & Das, 2023)</p>
Melted cheese	<p>Hardness (g): 720 - 200 Adhesion (gs): -0.18 to -0.12 Cohesiveness: 0.66 - 0.6 Elasticity (mm): 6.2 - 2.9</p>	<p>Moisture (%) 48.5 - 47 Ash (%): 4.35 - 4.21 pH: 5.17 - 5.13 Acidity (%): 0.16 - 0.25 Lipids (%): 27.6 - 29.5 Proteins (%): 16.2 - 16.5</p>	Not reported	<p>Appearance (Scale 2 to 5): 4 - 3.6 Adhesiveness (Scale 2 - 5): 3.8 - 3.6 Gumminess (scale 2 - 5): 4 - 4 Chincness (scale 2 - 5): 4 - 4.5 General acceptance (scale 2 - 5): 3.8 - 3.8</p>	<p>Block-type melted cheese fortified with date seeds.</p> <p>Stored at 5°C for 5 months</p>	<p>(Alqahtani, Alnemr, Alqattan, Aleid, & Habib, 2023)</p>
Fresh cheese	<p>Loss of weight (%): 1.8 - 12 Dry extract (%): 32.5 - 36.8 CIELab: L*: 95.46 - 94.20; a*: -1.87 - 1.81; b*: 9.21 - 9.41 Hardness (N): 13 - 32. Chincness (J): 0.08 - 0.185</p>	<p>radical scavenging (DPPH, %): 3 - 4 pH: 6.82 - 6.35 acidity (%): 0.195 - 0.420 TBA mg MDA/kg): 0.005 - 0.035</p>	<p>Listeria monocytogenes (log ufc/g): 3.6 - 7.8 RAM (log ufc/g): 4.1 - 8.6</p>	<p>hedonic scale from 1 to 5 Smell: 4.8 - 3.3 Color y appearance: 4.5 - 3.5 Texture: 4.6 - 2.8 Gusto: 4.7 - 3.10 General acceptance: 4.5 - 3.7</p>	<p>Stored at 4 °C for 15 days</p>	<p>(Aminian-Dehkordi, Ghaderi-Ghahfarokhi, Saei-Dehkordi, & Fazlara, 2023)</p>
Sour cream butter	Not reported	<p>Acidity index (mg KOH/g butter): 0.12 a 0.40 Peroxide value (meq/kg butter): 4.43 a 15.25 Oxidative stability (Rancimat at 110 °C): 18 h/min</p>	Not reported	Not reported	<p>stored at 4 °C for 60 days</p>	<p>(Alipour, Marhamatizadeh, & Mohammadi, 2023)</p>
Fresh butter	<p>Moisture (%): 14.23 - 14.05 Non-greasy solids (%): 1.57 - 1.66 Fat (%): 82.87 - 84.37</p>	<p>Fatty acid (g/100 g fat) C18: 11.50 - 12.27 C18:2 4.90 - 4.63 Peroxide value (meq/kg butter): 0.30 - 0.28 Oleic acid base (%): 0.14 - 0.19 Iodine (I2 g/100g): 29.56 - 28.52 Saponification (mg KOH/g): 234.55 - 233.47</p>	<p>RAM (log ufc/g): 2.28 - 2.46) Staphylococcus (log ufc/g): 0.95 - 2.43 E. coli (log ufc/g): 2.47 - 1.58 Psychrophiles (ufc/g): 2.31 - 2.46</p>	Not reported	<p>Wrapped in low density polyethylene (LDPE) Ag film. 10 g packets Stored at 4 °C for 30 days.</p>	<p>(Pouyamanesh, Ahari, Anvar, & Karim, 2022)</p>
Yoghurt	Tuluq	Not reported	Not reported	<p>9-point hedonic scale Surface brightness 8.71 -7.86 Surface smoothness: 8.28 - 8.14 Firmness: 8.01 - 9.95 Mouthfeel: 9.14 - 9.00</p>	<p>Concentrated Yogurt Sheep or goat skin bags Stored at 4 °C for 60 days.</p>	<p>(Alirezalu et al, 2019)</p>

		Lipolysis content: (meq/100g oil): 0.39 - 0.40 Nitrogen fractions TN (g/100 g): 0.74 - 1.80 NS/TN (%): 14.11 - 15.38 NPN/TN (%): 10.83 - 12.26		Similar to a foreign animal/Flavor: 15.42 - 18.85 Acidic or sour taste: 8.28 - 9.28 Rancid taste: 8.28 - 9.57 Yeast/mold taste: 8.14 - 9.28 General flavour: 7.34 - 8.14 General acceptance: 41.48 - 43.09	
Torba	Not reported	pH 4.09 - 4.56 Titratable acidity (lactic acid g/100g): 1.08 - 1.6 Total solids (g/100g) 16.98 - 37.47 Protein content (g/100 g) 6 - 12 Fat content (g/100 g) 7 - 18 Syneresis (g/100 g free serum) 33.2 - 18.1 Lipolysis content (meq/100g oil): 0.40 - 0.45 Nitrogen fractions TN (g/100 g) 0.91 - 1.96 NS/TN (%): 10.41 - 14.19 NPN/TN (%): 8.09 - 12.66	Not reported	9-point hedonic scale Surface brightness 8.00 - 7.14 Surface smoothness: 8.00 - 7.14 Firmness: 8.01 - 10.00 Mouthfeel: 8.86 - 8.71 Similar to a foreign animal/Flavor: 16.85 - 18.57 Acidic or sour taste: 7.43 - 7.67 Rancid taste: 7.00 - 9.28 Yeast/mold taste: 7.00 - 9.43 General flavour: 7.14 - 7.14 General acceptance: 40.01 - 40.13	Samples in cloth bag Stored at 4 °C for 60 days
Dessert	CIELab: L* 46.88 - 40.54; a* 40.80 - 4.31; b* 5.44 - 3.76 Hardness (N): 34.35 - 55.64 Adhesiveness (N/s): 0.24 - 0.19 Elasticity (mm): 0.17 - 0.17 Gumminess (N/mm): 4.42 - 5.06 Chewiness (N/mm): 1.02 - 1.49 Cohesion: 0.13 - 0.08 W ₅ 0.63 - 0.62	Moisture (%): 25 - 24 Acidity (%) 0.23 - 0.35 Total sugars (%): 65 - 60 Free fatty acid (%): 0.1 - 0.35 Ascorbic acid (mg/100g): 2.5 - 1.8 Antioxidant activity (%DPPH RSA) 70 - 75 Total phenol content (mg GAE/100g) 800 - 500	Total plate count (ufc/g) 1.5×10 - 1.1×10 Yeast and mold count (ufc/g) 0 - 7.0 × 10 Coliforms (ufc/g) <10 ¹ - <10 ¹	Color 8.48 - 6.97 Texture 8.24 - 6.97 flavour 8.40 - 6.04 Acceptability 8.40 - 6.66	The desserts were wrapped in butter paper (thickness 40 µm; water vapor transmission rate 14 cm ³ /m ² /24 h, oxygen transmission rate 12.5 cm ³ /m ² /24 h) and were packaged in polypropylene trays. Stored at 25 ± 2 °C for 21 days.
	CIELab: L* 46.88 - 43.90; a* 4.80 - 4.62; b* 5.44 - 3.66 Hardness (N): 34.35 - 66.26 Adhesiveness (N/s): 0.24 - 0.15 Elasticity (mm): 0.17 - 0.07 Gumminess (N/mm): 4.42 - 5.70 Chewiness (N/mm): 1.02 - 1.73 Cohesion: 0.13 - 0.02 W ₅ 0.63 - 0.61	Moisture (%): 25 - 21 Acidity: 0.23 - 0.36 Total sugars (%): 65 - 55 Free fatty acid (%) 0.1 - 0.2 Ascorbic acid (mg/100g) 2.6 - 1.8 Antioxidant activity (%DPPH RSA) 50 - 70 Total phenol content (mg GAE/100g) 800 - 500	Re Total plate count (ufc/g): 1.5×10 - 1.2×10 Total plate count (ufc/g): 0 - 6.0×10 Coliforms (ufc/g): < 10 ¹ - <10 ¹	Color 8.48 - 7.10 Texture 8.24 - 6.43 flavour 8.40 - 6.50 Acceptability 8.40 - 6.68	Stored at (4 ± 2 °C) for 28 days

(Singh et al., 2022)

Table 5
Values for shelf life indicators in meat products

Product	Physical	Chemical	Microbiological	Sensory	Experimental conditions	References
Pork	CIELab: L* 68.84 - 50.16; a* 4.40 - 13.50; b* 3.25 - 7.26 Water retention %: 0 - 12.04 Hardness [N] 10.25 - 15.66 Cohesion 0.03 - 0.02 Elasticity [mm]: 0.35 - 0.25 Gumminess [N]: 0.37 - 0.36	pH 5.59 - 7.3 TVB-N (mg/100 g) %: 1.15 - 30.49	Total viable bacteria count TVC (log CFU/g): 3.50 - 8.0 Enterobacteriaceae: 2.40 - 5.50 Pseudomonas spp.: 3.90 - 8.0 Count of psychrotrophic bacteria: 3.10 - 8.0	Chewiness [N*mm] 0.11 - 0.08 Color 5.00 - 1.00 Smell 5.00 - 1.00	Fresh pork steaks (60 - 80 g) 15 boxes Stored at 4 °C for 15 days.	(Montone et al., 2023)

Pork chop	Not reported	VBN: 6.68 -15.00; pH: 6.45 - 6.12 TBA: 0.88 - 4.18	TAC: 2.87 - 7.75	Sensory evaluation: 9.00 - 7.44	Ground Beef Pork Chop Stored at -18 °C* for 204 days	(Park et al., 2018)
Beef	CIELab L* 64.74 - 99.22 a* 47.70 to -3.50 b*-50.39 to -8.19	pH: 5.52 - 6.38 VBN (mg%): 5.83 - 50.73 TBA (mg MDA/kg): 0.71 - 2.46 Methylamine 60 - 72 h (µg/g) 3.27 - 4.21 Dimethylamine 48 - 72 h (µg/g) 0.25 - 11.19 TMA trimethylamine 0-72 h (µg/g) 0.44 - 38.82	RAM TBC (log UFC/g): 3.81 - 8.74	Not reported	Stored at 20 °C for 72 hours	(Lee & Shin, 2019)
Fresh pork loin	Loss of weight: 10.08% Cut: 21,39 - 31,11 N L* 57.4 ± 0.23 - 57.63 a* 0.9 ± 0.02 - 0.92 b* 5.0 ± 0.02 - 5.02	pH 5.87 - 6.8 TVC 3.07 - 9.02 log CFU g ⁻¹ TVB-N 40.7 - 240.5 mg kg ⁻¹ TBA 0.07 - 0.84 mg MDA kg ⁻¹ Thiol groups 0.067 - 0.031 mmol g ⁻¹	Not reported	Average liker scale (Color, smell, Acceptance): 5 – 1	Stored at 4 °C for 14 days	(Hu et al., 2022)
Lamb meat	CIELab L* 48.52 - 46.19 a* 7.08- 2.33 b* 5.66 - 3.76 Water retention (WHC) %: 4.50 - 3.9	pH 6.27 - 6.40	Bacterial load (log CFU/g) 6.26 - 8.05 Total Coliforms (log CFU/g) 4.5 - 6.0	9-point hedonic scale (average) Appearance: 6.33 Texture: 5.27 Juiciness 4.87 General acceptance 5.93	Stored at 4 °C for 3 days.	(Hajar-Azhari et al., 2023)
Buffalo meat	Hardness (N) 67.0 - 46.59 CIELab L* 36.4 - 33.8 a* 12.0 - 8.7 b* 6.0 - 3.5	pH 5.96 - 6.43 Moisture % 7.29 - 67.23	Total viable count (TVC) log UFC/g: 3.21 - 10.30 Psychrotrophic count (PTC): 2.19 - 9.17 <i>Escherichia coli</i> count: 1.39 - 4.43 Coliform count: 2.84 - 7.0 <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> count: 150 - 4.98 Fungal count (molds and yeasts): 1.15 - 4.15	Hedonic scale of 1 - 9 points Texture 8.9 - 3.0 Smell 8.9 - 3.0 Appearance 8.9 - 2.9 Color 8.9 - 2.9 Acceptance 8.9 - 5.0	It was cut into 2 x 2 x 2 cm ³ Packed in plastic bags Stored at 4 °C for 9 days	(Samani, Jooyandeh, & Behbahani, 2023)
Chicken Nuggets	Water holding capacity (WHC) % 93.28 - 86.94	TBA (mg MDA/kg): 0.24 - 2.39 Protein oxidation (DNBH) (nmol carbonyl content/mg protein): 0.60 - 6.44 pH 6.64 - 4.39	Total bacterial count (log ufc/g): 1.477 - 5.25 Coliform count (log ufc/g): 1.30 - 3.5 Total yeast and mold count (log ufc/g) 0 - 2.39	Average Aspect 8.60 Flavour 8.20 Color 8.60 General acceptance 8.30	Negative control samples (NC) Chicken nugget shape (3.8 cm diameter, 1.3 cm thick with an average weight of 17.5 g). Chicken nuggets were placed on plates and wrapped with polyethylene film, stored 4 °C for 24 days	(El-Sohaimy, Abd El-Wahab, Oleneva, & Toshev, 2022)
Beef patties	Not reported	Not reported	Total viable counts (TVC) log CFU/g: 5.0 - 9.50 <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> count (log CFU/g): 2.5-4.5 Mold and yeast counts (log CFU/g): 2.3 - 5.36	Average Color 5.0; Flavour 5.0; Texture 5.0 General acceptance 15.0	100 g hamburger patty containing 60% beef. Packed separately in zippered plastic bags. Stored at 4 °C for 12 days	(Homayounpour et al., 2021)
Pork sausages	Hardness (gf): 2700.0 - 4837.7 Elasticity (mm): 6.67 - 6.50 Gumminess (kg mm ⁻²): 224.4 - 47.7 Chewiness (kg mm ⁻²): 135.7 - 317.8 Cohesion: 7.90 - 10.01 CIELab: L* 70.37 - 68.94; a* 9.98 - 9.00; b* 7.24 - 7.73	pH 6.37 - 6.35 Expressive moisture (EM) % 15.61 - 11.28 Raw protein (%): 16.81 - 19.71 Raw fat (%): 15.63 - 17.83 Moisture (%): 66.27 - 59.98 TBA (mg MAD/kg): 0.080 - 0.47	Total bacterial counts (TBC) (Log CFU/g) 3.00 - 3.54 Enterobacteriaceae count (EBC) (Log CFU/g) 3.00 - 3.50	Not reported	Samples (1.3 cm long and wide) Vacuum packed Stored at 10 °C for 35 days.	(Qiu & Chin, 2022)
Pork salami	Hardness (N): 7736 - 8709 Elasticity (mm): 0.29 - 0.30 Chewiness (N mm): 4636-4636 CIELab L* 39.77 - 44.44; a* 17.98 - 18.42 b* 11.52 - 12.17	pH 4.71 - 5.01 Moisture (%): 40.37 - 38.70 Protein (%): 28.40 - 28.60 Lipid (%): 23.48 - 23.62 TBA: Malaldehyde concentration (mg MDA/kg) 0.090 - 0.167 Nitrite (ppm): 3.23 - 0.87 Nitrate (ppm) 25.68 - 29.22	Not reported	Attribute evaluation (average) Sour flavour 6.64 Acidic aroma 6.19 Rancid flavour 0.55 Rancid aroma 0.36	Packs of 100 g of product Salami slices Stored from 22 - 25 °C for 120 days.	(Demarco, Romio, Alfaro, & Toniai, 2022)

13. Conclusions

Currently, consumers are more concerned about their health and the environment in which they live, which is why they prefer to consume functional foods that are made with ecological and environmentally friendly packaging since these types of packaging better preserve proteins and antioxidants in the food. The shelf life of food normally depends on the packaging used for distribution in the market; the longer conservation of the product depends on this to protect it from external factors, such as environmental changes, temperature, light, physical changes, chemical, microbiological sensory evaluation, etc.; which may present internal changes and changes in its composition, quality and the shelf life of the product when exposed to unfavorable conditions. Some indicators used to determine the shelf life of foods are pH, humidity, water activity, color, thiobarbituric acid, and microbiological activity, among others.

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Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest

Author contributions

T. Espinoza-Tellez: conceptualization, research, writing the initial draft and revision. **R. Quevedo-León:** research, writing the initial draft, review and supervision. **Oscar Diaz-Carrasco:** research, revision of the manuscript.

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