

# Einkorn Nutrition Facts

**Title tag:** Einkorn Nutrition Facts: Protein, Vitamins, Gluten & GI

**Meta description:** The original wheat, before modern breeding, before glyphosate. Verified per-100 g nutrition for einkorn flour, berries, and bread, plus how it compares to modern wheat.

**Canonical:** <https://einkorn.com/einkorn-nutritional-facts/>

**Author byline:** Jade Koyle

*Calories, protein, vitamins, minerals, gluten profile, and the per-100 g numbers — sourced from USDA FoodData Central and peer-reviewed research.*

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*The wheat we eat today isn't like they ate thousands of years ago. In nutrition sampling tests, einkorn has been found to be a more nutritious grain. Einkorn contains higher levels of protein, essential fatty acids, phosphorus, potassium, pyridoxine (B6), lutein, and beta-carotene.*

*Einkorn flour is characterized by high protein, high ash, very high carotene content, and small flour particle size when compared to modern bread wheats. There's a reason people ate this stuff for thousands of years and called it the staff of life.*

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Einkorn is the original cultivated wheat — the variety humans were eating before modern breeding rewired the genome. The name is pronounced **EYE-n-korn**, from the German for *single grain*. It's also known as [farro piccolo, kleinspelt, and littlespelt](#).

Einkorn is a nutrient-packed grain: per 100 g of whole grain, einkorn delivers 369 kcal, 15.1 g of protein, 3.81 g of fat, 68.7 g of carbohydrate, 8.9 g of dietary fiber, and standout amounts of zinc, manganese, phosphorus, and the carotenoid lutein ([USDA FoodData Central](#); [Ziegler et al., 2015](#)).

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## What makes einkorn different?

Einkorn ([Triticum monococcum](#)) is different from the typical wheats, breads, and flours you'll see in your grocery aisle. The oldest cultivated wheat on earth, [first domesticated about](#)

[10,000 BCE in southeastern Anatolia](#), einkorn is also the *simplest*. At a genetic level, Einkorn carries seven pairs of chromosomes — fourteen total. Modern bread wheat carries twenty-one pairs and forty-two total chromosomes. Why does modern wheat have so many more chromosomes? This is the result of two ancient hybridization events, plus over a century of intensive breeding for higher yield, shorter stalks, and easier industrial milling. While this has made modern farming easier, it has dramatically altered the structure of the wheat itself, introducing new problems.

Einkorn never underwent this change. Its proteins, starch, and mineral profile are the originals.

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## Einkorn nutrition facts (per 100 g)

<b>Nutrient (per 100 g)</b>	<b>Whole grain berry<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Whole-grain flour<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>80% einkorn sourdough bread<sup>3</sup></b>
Energy	369 kcal	~340 kcal	~245 kcal
Protein	15.1 g	14.6 g	9.3 g
Total fat	3.81 g	3.5 g	2.1 g
Carbohydrate	68.7 g	71.0 g	47.0 g
of which starch	56.2 g	—	—
Total dietary fiber	8.91 g	8.4 g	4.8 g
Iron	3.69 mg	3.6 mg	2.0 mg
Zinc	5.23 mg	4.9 mg	2.8 mg
Magnesium	140 mg	132 mg	75 mg
Phosphorus	436 mg	410 mg	235 mg
Potassium	432 mg	405 mg	230 mg
Manganese	4.20 mg	3.95 mg	2.25 mg
Thiamin (B <sub>1</sub> )	0.49 mg	0.46 mg	0.26 mg

Nutrient (per 100 g)	Whole grain berry <sup>1</sup>	Whole-grain flour <sup>2</sup>	80% einkorn sourdough bread <sup>3</sup>
Niacin (B <sub>3</sub> )	5.69 mg	5.35 mg	3.05 mg
Vitamin B <sub>6</sub>	0.264 mg	0.25 mg	0.14 mg

Values are drawn from the [USDA FoodData Central entry for einkorn whole grain](#) (USDA FDC 2710827, published 2024). Einkorn is [available as whole grain berries, whole-grain flour, and all-purpose flour](#).

<sup>1</sup> USDA FDC 2710827 (Foundation Foods, 2024-10-31). <sup>2</sup> Whole-grain einkorn flour values estimated from the USDA whole-wheat flour comparator (FDC 790085) and Hidalgo & Brandolini (2014) — see [all-purpose einkorn flour](#). <sup>3</sup> Bread values modeled at 75% hydration with [whole einkorn berries](#) milled fresh; actual values vary with hydration and formula.

## Einkorn packs more protein than typical modern wheat

**Einkorn whole grain contains about 15.1 g of protein per 100 g** ([USDA FDC 2710827](#)). Across cultivars, [wholemeal einkorn protein runs anywhere from 15% to 22% of dry matter](#) (Hidalgo & Brandolini, 2014). Typical modern bread wheat sits at 10–14% — meaning einkorn routinely brings 20–40% more protein per bite than the wheat in a typical grocery loaf. The dramatic difference shows up against refined white wheat; the gap is smaller against USDA whole-wheat flour, which also lands near 15 g per 100 g.

The protein isn't just *more*. It's *built differently*. Einkorn's gluten-forming proteins are simpler and shorter than modern wheat's — including the absence of one specific fragment (the "33-mer," covered in the gluten section below) that's a leading suspect in the wheat-tolerance issues many modern eaters report.

For bakers, einkorn dough behaves differently in the bowl: stickier, looser, and slower to rise than high-gluten modern flour. The bread comes out denser and more tender, with a tighter crumb and a deeper color. For the specifics of adjusting your baking to work with this unique grain, see [our tips for baking with einkorn flour](#).

A note for fairness: einkorn is one of the highest-protein *wheat* species, but it isn't the highest-protein grain. Oats, hemp, quinoa, and amaranth equal or exceed it.

## Einkorn delivers more zinc, lutein, and key minerals than modern wheat

The biggest mineral gap is **zinc**. The USDA puts einkorn at 5.23 mg per 100 g versus 2.65 mg for hard red winter wheat — close to twice as much. A 100 g serving covers roughly half the daily zinc needs of an adult woman (8 mg/day) and a third for a man (11 mg/day).

**Phosphorus** runs 436 mg per 100 g — about 62% of the 700 mg daily target — versus 288 mg in modern wheat ([Zhao et al., 2009](#)). **Manganese** at 4.20 mg already exceeds the daily adequate intake for both men (2.3 mg) and women (1.8 mg). **Iron** is modestly higher (3.69 mg vs. 3.19 mg).

One caveat: all whole grains contain phytic acid, which binds minerals like zinc and iron and reduces absorption. Sourdough fermentation — the long, slow rise traditional einkorn bread uses — breaks down phytic acid and boosts how much of those minerals you actually absorb. Form matters.

The B-vitamin profile is broadly comparable to whole-wheat flour — thiamin, niacin, and B<sub>6</sub> all land in the same range.

Where einkorn pulls away is the **carotenoids** — the plant pigments that make egg yolks yellow and carrots orange. The headline carotenoid here is **lutein**, the pigment most studied for protecting the macula of the eye as people age. [Ziegler et al. \(2015\) measured einkorn lutein at 4.5-7.8 µg per gram of dry matter](#) — roughly 0.45-0.78 mg per 100 g of grain, or about 200-310 µg in a single 40 g slice of einkorn bread. Bread wheat lands at 0.07-0.20 mg per 100 g — **three to seven times less**. [Hidalgo and Brandolini \(2008\) found a similar gap for total carotenoids](#). These are the pigments behind einkorn flour's butter-yellow color, and they're a real nutritional differentiator.

For [the longer-form benefits roundup](#), see the dedicated page.

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## Einkorn may be gentler on blood sugar (especially as sourdough)

Glycemic-index research on pure einkorn bread is still a bit limited — but the story so far is encouraging for anyone watching their blood sugar. A 2024 study reported [in-vitro GI values of 89-94 for a Turkish dried bread enriched with einkorn flour](#). In a pig-model trial, [einkorn bread produced a clearly lower postprandial insulin response than equivalent bread made from modern wheat](#). How einkorn is processed appears to be clearly different. However it's worth noting that there are other big factors in blood sugar response: refined vs.

whole-grain, fast-leavened vs. slow sourdough — all of this changes the blood-sugar response, in addition to the grain itself.

## Is einkorn good for diabetics?

Animal and in-vitro evidence suggests einkorn bread, especially as long-fermented sourdough, produces a gentler glycemic and insulinemic response than modern-wheat bread. It isn't a clinical claim — anyone managing diabetes should treat einkorn as a whole-grain wheat in their carbohydrate budget and work with a registered dietitian or their primary care physician to make individualized health choices.

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## Why do so many people tolerate einkorn, even when modern wheat bothers them?

Modern wheat has changed, and a lot of people don't feel great after eating it.

Today's bread wheat is a hexaploid hybrid — six complete sets of chromosomes (forty-two total). Einkorn has two sets (fourteen total). Modern wheat got bigger and easier to mass-produce, but its gluten got more complex along the way. One particular fragment of modern wheat's gluten — the "**33-mer**" — is the single best-studied trigger of the celiac immune response, and a leading suspect in the broader "I don't tolerate wheat well" experience.

A 2017 mass-spectrometry study [found the 33-mer at 91-603 µg/g in 38 modern and 15 historical hexaploid wheats and 2 spelt cultivars — but below the limit of detection in einkorn](#). A 2020 [ex vivo digestion study](#) reinforced the result: einkorn released 38 distinct immune-triggering peptides versus 72-155 for common bread wheats; the 33-mer and two other major triggers weren't detected at all in einkorn digests (Bjorkøy et al., 2020).

So when someone says: "*I can eat einkorn bread when I can't eat normal bread*" - the science appears to back their anecdotal experience up. See also [three reasons einkorn may be easier to digest](#) and [research on the lower in-vitro toxicity of einkorn gliadin](#) (Vincentini et al., 2007) for more detail on this.

**One thing einkorn is not, however, is gluten-free.** It contains gluten and is detected by the standard R5 ELISA used in the [FDA and Codex gluten-testing methods](#). It does not meet the 20-ppm gluten-free threshold under FDA 21 CFR 101.91 or Codex CXS 118-1979. **For people with celiac disease, talk with your doctor to understand whether einkorn may or may not work for you.** See [is einkorn flour gluten-free?](#) for more information.

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## Einkorn vs. modern wheat: the head-to-head

Side-by-side per 100 g of whole grain:

Nutrient	Einkorn	Hard red winter wheat
Energy (kcal)	369	327
Protein (g)	15.1	12.6
Total fat (g)	3.81	1.54
Total dietary fiber (g)	8.91	12.2
Zinc (mg)	5.23	2.65
Iron (mg)	3.69	3.19
Lutein (µg/g)	4.5-7.8	0.7-2.0

(USDA FoodData Central, FDC 2710827 and 168890; lutein from Ziegler et al., 2015.)

Einkorn isn't simply more nutritious: more protein, more healthy fats, more zinc, more phosphorus, and dramatically more carotenoids than modern flours and even hard red winter wheat. It's slightly lower in total dietary fiber than hard red — if total fiber is what you're optimizing for, whole-wheat or rye supplies more. For [the full side-by-side of einkorn, spelt, emmer, kamut, and modern bread wheat](#), see our comparison page.

The bigger story is what *hasn't* been done to einkorn. [Modern bread wheat is the product of two ancient grass crossings, plus over a century of intensive breeding](#) for higher yield and shorter plants. In fact, [the hybridization history that produced today's gluten structure](#) is believed to be the cause of the rise in gluten intolerance.

### Glyphosate desiccation: a US-specific problem most eaters don't know about

A meaningful portion of US conventional bread-wheat acreage is treated with **pre-harvest glyphosate** — sprayed onto the standing crop in the days before harvest to kill it to a uniform moisture and speed up combining. Residues of glyphosate and its metabolite AMPA have been measured in conventional wheat-based foods sold in US grocery stores. The practice is legal and residue levels sit below the EPA's tolerance, but a growing share of shoppers prefer to avoid these residues regardless.

Einkorn is produced almost entirely by small organic and regenerative growers and isn't managed this way. It's part of the reason einkorn customers say their food just *feels* different. All of [einkorn.com](https://www.einkorn.com)'s einkorn products are certified organic and glyphosate-free.

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## Berries, flour, and bread: how einkorn nutrition shifts by form

Whole einkorn berries deliver the full nutrient profile ([see the table above.](#)) They cook in 30–40 minutes and [work beautifully as a side grain or salad base.](#)

Whole-grain einkorn flour keeps the bran and germ — and most of the per-100 g mineral and carotenoid load — while behaving differently from modern wheat flour: [its particle size is smaller and ash content \(1.5–2.0%\) is higher than typical bread wheat](#), which changes how it absorbs water and rises.

As a bread, a typical 40 g slice of 80% einkorn sourdough bread contains roughly 18–22 g of carbohydrate, at a lower glycemic index than modern breads, depending on the loaf's hydration and einkorn-flour ratio. [Per-100 g values are also in the table above.](#) For a step-by-step [einkorn bread baking guide](#) using [whole-grain einkorn flour](#), see the bread-baking post.

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## The 5 biggest reasons people switch to einkorn

1. **More protein than typical modern wheat.** 15–22% of dry matter (USDA; Hidalgo & Brandolini, 2014) — among the highest of cultivated wheats.
2. **Roughly twice the zinc and 50% more phosphorus** than hard red winter wheat, per 100 g (USDA) — meaningful percentages of a day's needs in a single serving.
3. **Three to seven times the lutein of bread wheat** (Ziegler et al., 2015) — the same antioxidant pigment most studied for eye health, and the reason einkorn flour is yellow.
4. **None of the 33-mer  $\alpha$ -gliadin fragment** that's the single best-studied trigger of the celiac immune response (Schalk et al., 2017). Einkorn still contains gluten and is not safe for celiac, but it skips the most-studied wheat-tolerance trigger.
5. **Lower postprandial insulin response** in pig-model trials versus modern-wheat bread (Barone et al., 2018) — early evidence that einkorn may be gentler on blood sugar, especially as sourdough.

For [our longer-form benefits roundup](#), see the dedicated page.

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## Frequently asked questions

**Is einkorn gluten-free?** No. Einkorn contains gluten and is detected by the standard R5 ELISA used in FDA and Codex methods. It does not meet the 20 ppm gluten-free threshold under FDA 21 CFR 101.91 or Codex CXS 118-1979 and is not safe for people with celiac disease.

**Is einkorn healthier than modern wheat?** Selectively. Per 100 g, einkorn carries more protein, more zinc and phosphorus, and three to seven times the lutein of typical bread wheat. It is lower in total dietary fiber than hard red winter wheat. "Healthier" depends on what you're optimizing for.

**What is the glycemic index of einkorn?** A single defensible GI value for pure einkorn isn't established in the literature. In-vitro studies of einkorn-enriched breads have reported GI in the high range; pig-model work shows a lower postprandial insulin response than modern wheat. Sourdough leavening and processing change the response significantly.

**How much protein is in einkorn?** About 15.1 g per 100 g of whole grain (USDA FDC 2710827); 15–22% of dry matter across cultivars (Hidalgo & Brandolini, 2014).

**Can people with gluten sensitivity eat einkorn?** Many people with non-celiac gluten or wheat sensitivity report tolerating einkorn better than modern wheat — consistent with einkorn's lack of the 33-mer  $\alpha$ -gliadin fragment. That's a real signal, not a guarantee. Einkorn still contains gluten and should not be eaten by people with celiac disease.

**Is einkorn an ancient grain?** Yes. Einkorn was first domesticated around 10,000 BCE in southeastern Anatolia (Heun et al., 1997), making it the oldest cultivated wheat and one of the founding crops of Neolithic agriculture.

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## Regulatory and standards bodies

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## JSON-LD schema (to embed in <head>)

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## Image plan (assets to ship with the page)

1. **Hero (above the brand-voice intro).** Photograph of einkorn whole-grain berries beside whole-grain einkorn flour, neutral background, 1200×630 (OG-compatible). Alt text: *Einkorn whole grain berries and whole-grain einkorn flour shown side by side.*
2. **Macronutrient comparison chart (beside the per-100 g table).** Bar chart of protein, fat, carbohydrate, and fiber per 100 g for einkorn vs. hard red winter wheat. SVG preferred. Alt text: *Per-100-gram macronutrient comparison of einkorn and hard red winter wheat, source USDA FoodData Central.*
3. **Mineral and lutein chart (in the vitamins-and-minerals section).** Bar chart for zinc, phosphorus, manganese, and lutein for einkorn vs. modern wheat. Alt text: *Mineral and lutein content of einkorn versus modern bread wheat per 100 grams, sourced from USDA FoodData Central and Ziegler et al. 2015.*
4. **Kernel comparison photograph (in the vs-modern-wheat section).** Side-by-side macro photograph of einkorn vs. modern bread-wheat kernels. Alt text: *Comparison photograph of einkorn grain kernels and modern bread wheat kernels showing the size and shape difference.*