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ESTONIA IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2023, sources: Eurostat and FAO

While it is a minor producing country in terms of aquaculture, in 2023 Estonia was the EU's 13th largest producer of fishery products.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Estonia	% world	% EU-27
Catches	91.681	3.555	77	0,084%	2,2%
Aquaculture	136.140	1.043	1	0,001%	0,1%
Total	**227.821**	**4.598**	**78**	**0,034%**	**1,7%**

FISHING FLEET

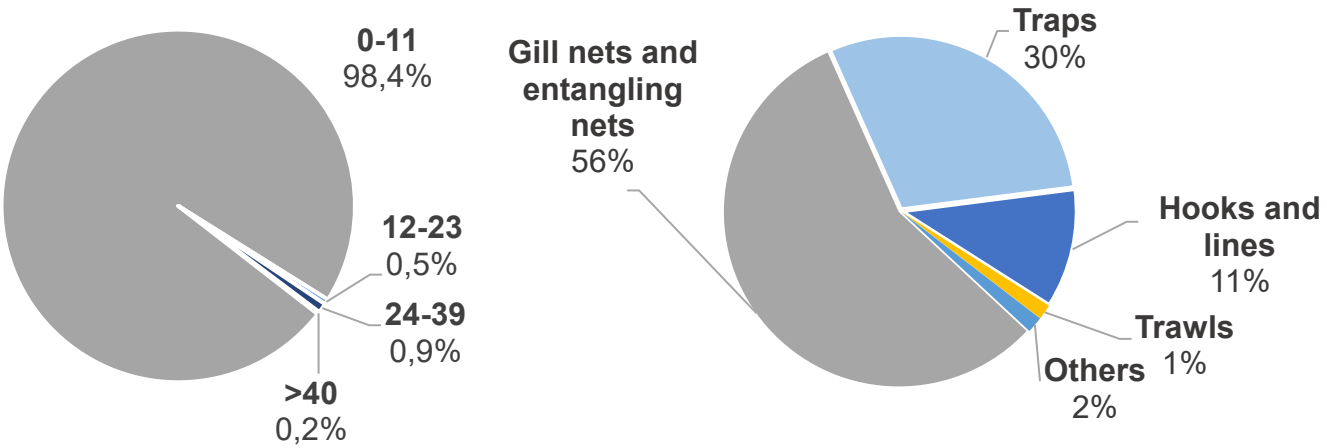
Fleet: 2024, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat Employment: 2023, source: JRC

Vessels (2024)	Capacity (2024)	Power (2024)	
Number: 2.059	GT: 16.097	KW: 48.676	
TOTAL FTE: 214 (2023, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	**12-23 m**	**24-39 m**	**>40 m**
Jobs (FTE): 64%	Jobs (FTE): 0%	Jobs (FTE): 36%	Jobs (FTE): 0%

GT: Gross tonnage - KW: Kilowatt - FTE: Full Time Equivalent

The Estonian fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)



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LANDINGS

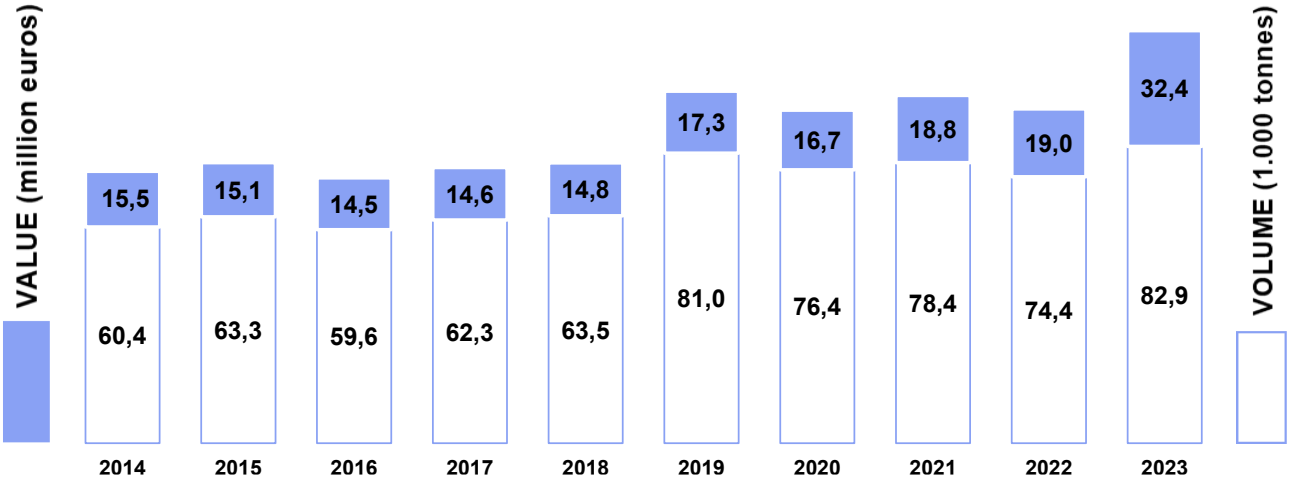
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data

Landings comprise the initial unloading of any fisheries products from on board a fishing vessel in a given Member State. They include aquatic plants and species not destined for human consumption. Landings are recorded in net weight and value, and concern landings made by vessels from EU Member States, Iceland, Norway and the UK.

Landings in Estonia consist of fresh whole/gutted products only. In 2023, 72% of landings were destined for human consumption, the rest being used for industrial purposes.

There are 144 fishing ports registered in the country (source: EU Master Data Register, 03 December 2025).

Total landings. Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2020)



Main commercial species landed and % of total
2023, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes

HERRING	14,50	44,80%	43,98	53,08%	HERRING
SPRAT (= BRISLING)	13,19	40,76%	35,96	43,39%	SPRAT (= BRISLING)
SMELT	0,64	1,99%	0,73	0,88%	SMELT
PIKE	0,20	0,63%	0,11	0,13%	EUROPEAN FLOUNDER
EUROPEAN FLOUNDER	0,19	0,60%	0,10	0,12%	PIKE
OTHERS	3,63	11,22%	1,98	2,39%	OTHERS

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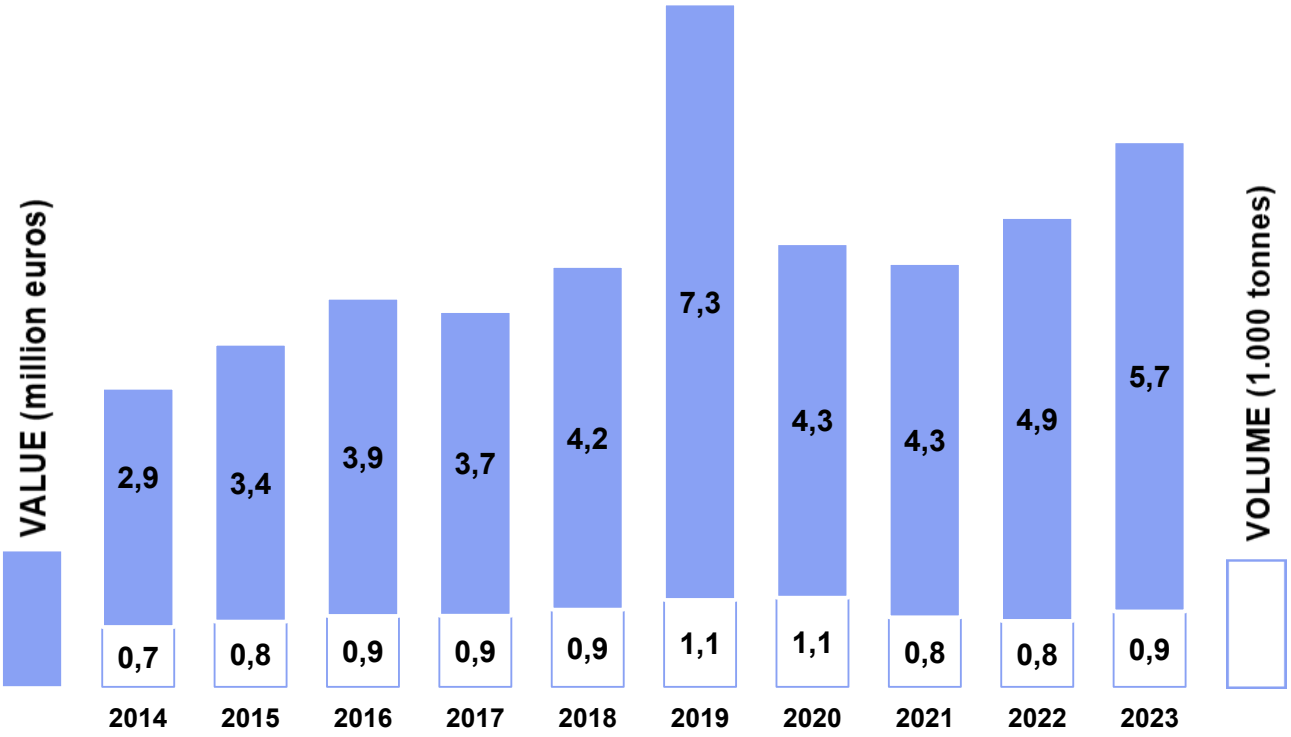
AQUACULTURE

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and FAO data

Aquaculture consists in the farming of aquatic (fresh or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Aquaculture data are reported in live weight equivalent and value.

According to 2023 data available in Eurostat, in Estonia, aquaculture production is carried out both in sea and brackish water and in freshwater. Marine and brackish water aquaculture production is mainly carried out using cage methods, while freshwater aquaculture mainly uses tanks and raceways as production methods.

Total production. Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2020)



Main commercial species farmed and % of total
2022, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes

TROUT	4,49	78%	0,78	95%	TROUT
EEL	0,47	8%	0,04	4%	EEL
OTHERS	0,77	13%	0,10	11%	OTHERS

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PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Source: European Commission, List of the recognised producer organisations in the fishery and aquaculture sector

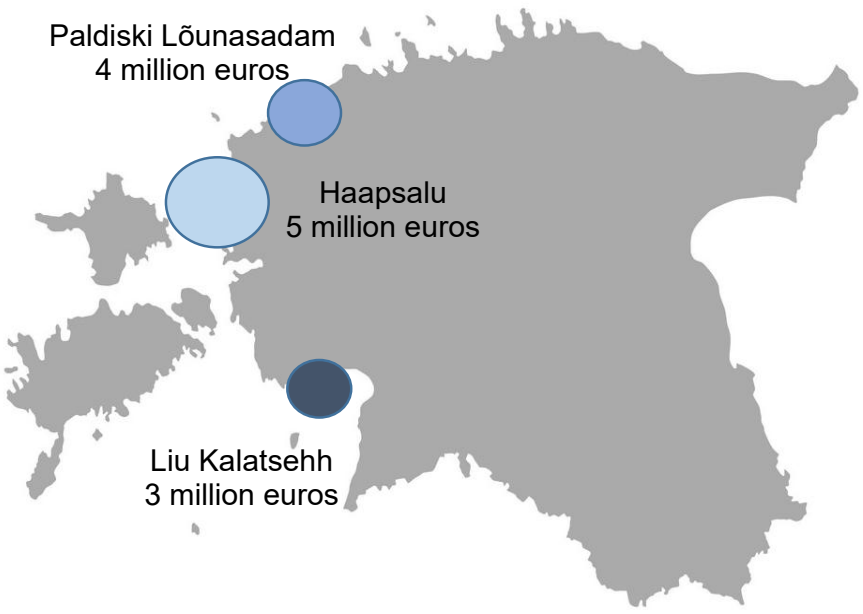
In Estonia, **5 producer organisations (POs)** and **1 association of POs** are formally recognized. Their role is to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and of the Common organisation of the markets (CMO) through the collective management of their members' activities. Of the 5 POs, 1 operates in aquaculture and 4 in the fishery sector. The association of POs operates in the fishery sector.

FIRST SALES

2025, source: EUMOFA

First sales concern the fish that is sold or registered at an auction center or to registered buyers or to producer organizations (PO). First sales may differ from landings since the former do not cover fish that is landed by vessels owned by processing companies or direct sales to processors. There are no auction markets in Estonia.

In 2025, total first sales in Estonian places of sale amounted to 55.052 tonnes and 25 million euros. The top-3 places of sale covered 62% and 45% of total first sales, respectively in volume and value terms.



Top-3 places of sale	Volume (tonnes)	Value (million euros)	Top-3 main commercial species (in value)
Haapsalu	18.402	5	Herring, sprat (=brisling), smelt
Paldiski Lõunasadam	9.116	4	Herring, sprat (=brisling), other marine fish
Liu Kalatsehh	6.463	3	Sprat (=brisling), herring, other marine fish

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PROCESSING

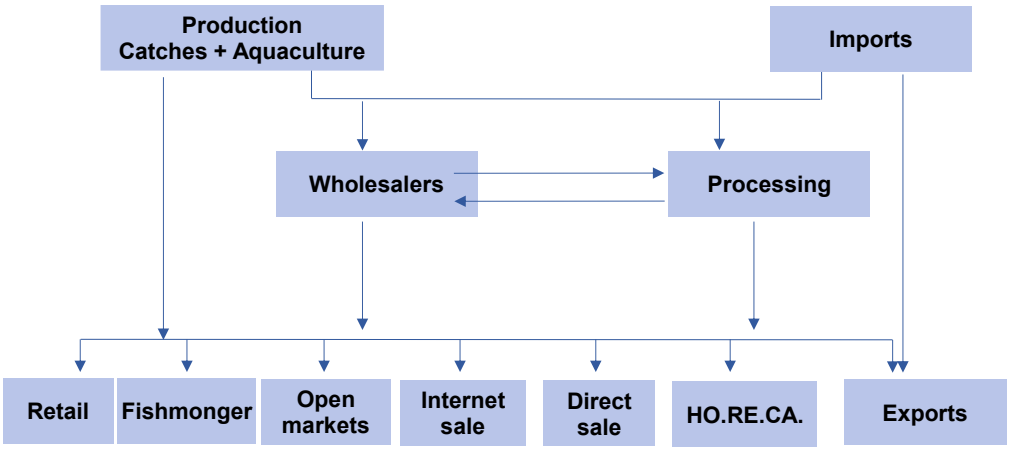
According to Eurostat-SBS, 1.169 persons were employed in the Estonian fish processing industry in 2023. The sector recorded a value added of 38 million euros, covering 8% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2024, the main products sold were “Frozen whole salt water fish” and “Flours, meals and pellets of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates, unfit for human consumption” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

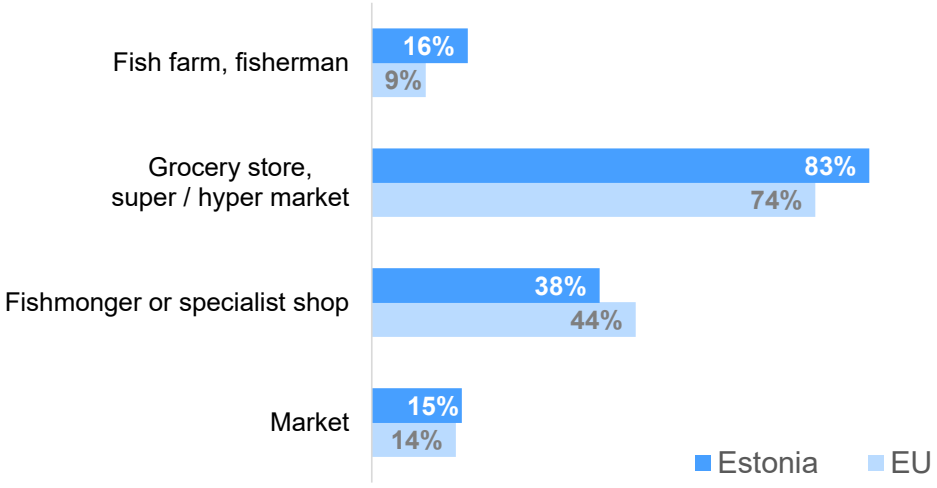
71 companies
Net turnover: 250 million euros
(2024, source: Eurostat - SBS)

DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in Estonia (source: Eurofish):



Consumer preferences on purchasing channels (source: Eurobarometer, 2024):



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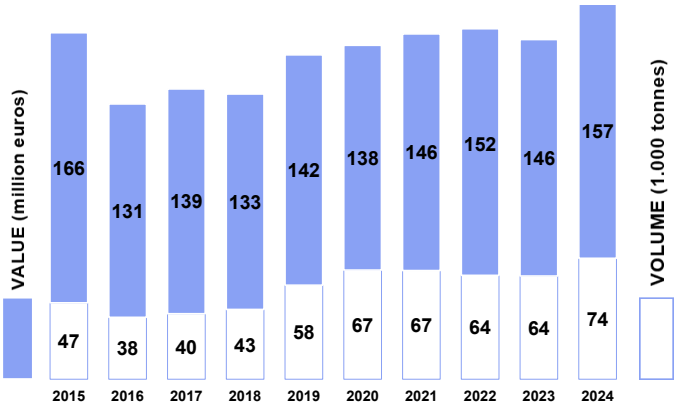
IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data

Values in the bar charts are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2020)

IMPORT

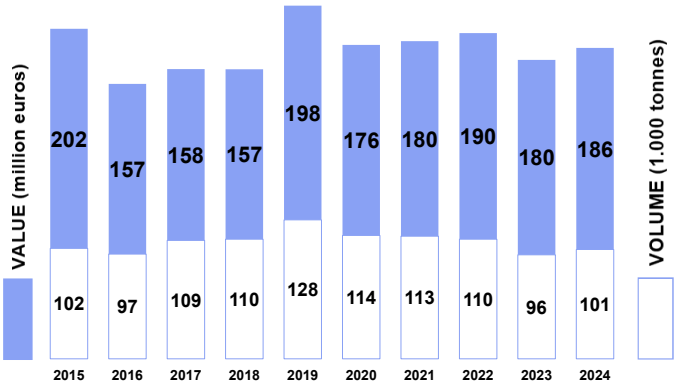


Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	61	28%
TROUT	24	11%
MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMPS	18	8%
HERRING	16	8%
CAVIAR, LIVERS AND ROES	10	5%
OTHERS	85	40%

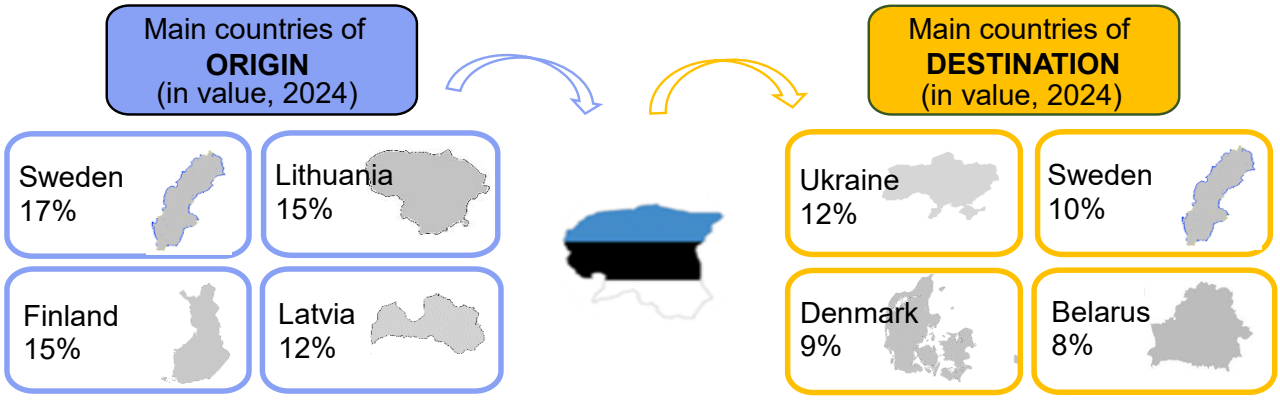
EXPORT



Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

SHRIMPS (MOSTLY COLDWATER)	56	22%
SALMON	37	15%
TROUT	20	8%
HERRING	19	7%
FISHMEAL	14	6%
OTHERS	108	43%



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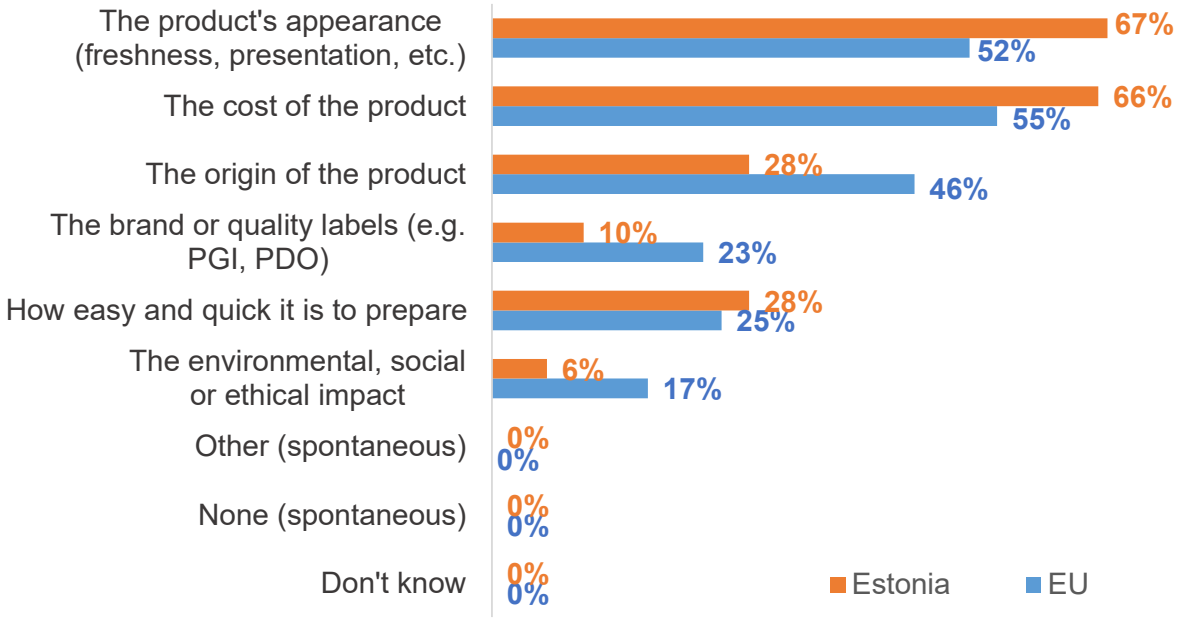
CONSUMPTION

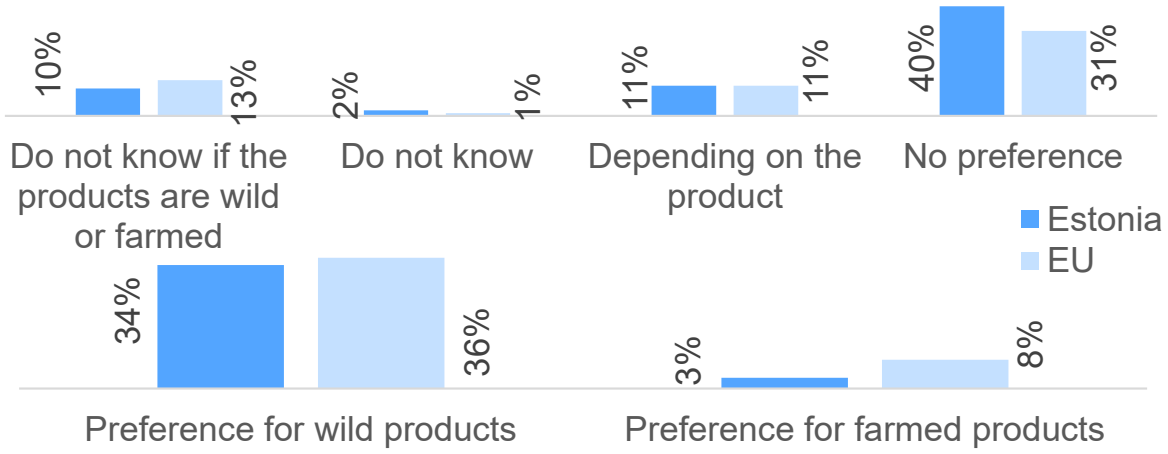
In 2023, apparent consumption was estimated at 17,51 kg per capita by the Estonian Institute of Economic Research, representing a significant 5% increase compared with 2022. The most consumed species were herring, sprat and salmon (source: EUMOFA).

17,51 kg
per capita in live weight equivalent
(2023, source: Estonian Institute of Economic Research – EKI)

Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2024)



Preferences regarding wild or farmed product (source: Eurobarometer, 2024)



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THE COUNTRY IN EUMOFA

LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with Statistics Denmark.

They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility.

AQUACULTURE

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with FAO data.

They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility.

FIRST SALES

Volumes and values are collected from the Ministry of Rural Affairs of Estonia on a weekly and monthly basis.

Weekly data are monitored for a selection of 4 main commercial species and 12 places of sale.

Monthly data cover all species sold in Estonian places of sale.

Both weekly and monthly data are accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility. As for monthly first sales, data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through dashboards and the bulk download facility.

WHOLESALE

No data available

IMPORT - EXPORT

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – COMEXT. Data concern trade flows of all fisheries and aquaculture products as recorded by national customs.

They are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility.

PROCESSING

Data are collected from Eurostat – PRODCOM. They concern ex-farm quantities and values of fisheries and aquaculture products sold in the country after being transformed from raw material into final products.

They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility.

CONSUMPTION

No data available.