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THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE WORLD

2023, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2023, the EU-27 was the 8th largest producer of fishery products in the world and the 11th in terms of aquaculture production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	% EU-27 / world
Catches	91.681	3.555	3,9%
Aquaculture	136.140	1.043	0,8%
Total	**227.821**	**4.598**	**2,0%**

FISHING FLEET

Fleet: 2024, source: EU fishing fleet register – Eurostat. Employment: source: JRC. Data refer to 2023 for all Member States

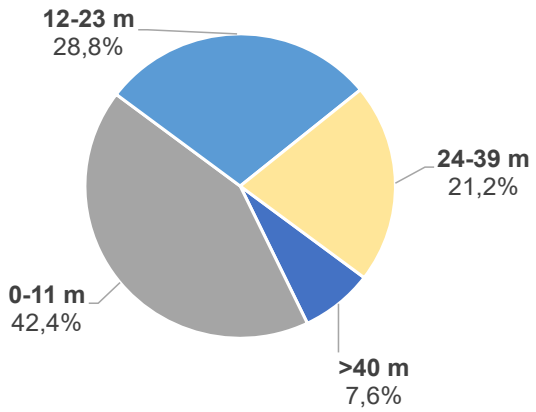
Vessels (2024)	Capacity (2024)	Power (2024)
Number: 68.863	GT: 1.238.509	KW: 5.039.139
TOTAL FTE: 73.974 (2023, source: JRC)		

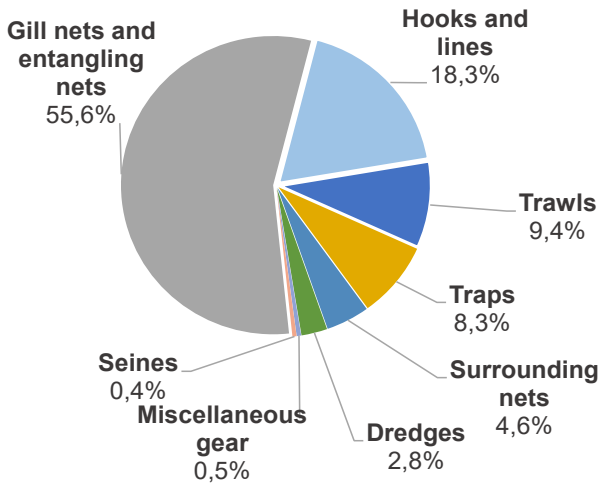
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 42%	Jobs (FTE): 29%	Jobs (FTE): 21%	Jobs (FTE): 8%

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

The EU-27 fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)





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LANDINGS

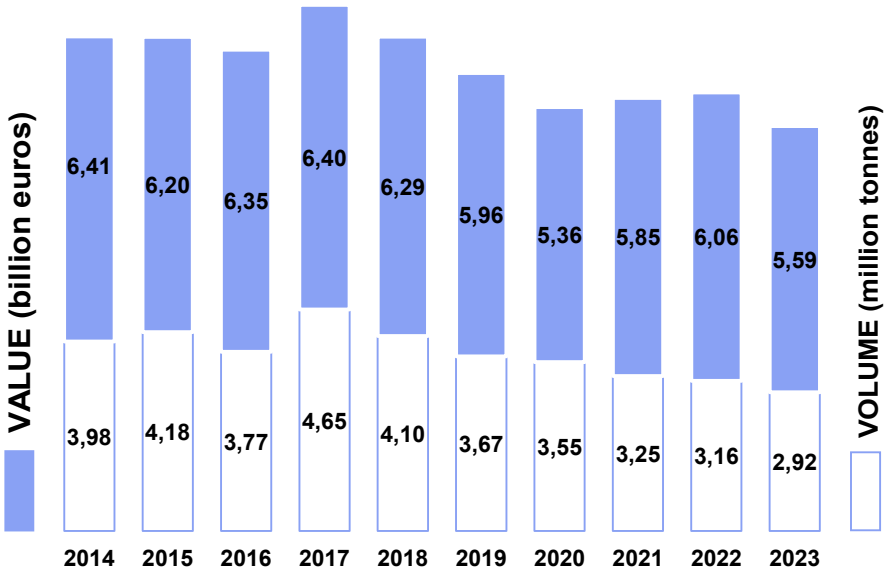
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and national sources' data

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.

In 2023, 72% of landings in the EU-27 included fresh whole/gutted products, 26% included frozen mainly whole/gutted products, 1% included cooked products and the remaining share included salted, smoked, dried products as well as products for which no detail is available in terms of preservation state. As for destination use, around 85% of the total was for human consumption, while the rest included products mainly destined for industrial uses.

There are 2.968 fishing ports registered in the EU-27 (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

HAKE	410,9	7,3%	467,1	16,0%	HERRING
HERRING	239,9	4,3%	434,5	14,9%	BLUE WHITING
MACKEREL	221,0	4,0%	309,0	10,6%	SPRAT (= BRISLING)
COMMON SOLE	208,4	3,7%	206,3	7,1%	MACKEREL
SQUID	205,8	3,7%	148,3	5,1%	SARDINE
OTHERS	4305,7	77,0%	1352,3	46,3%	OTHERS

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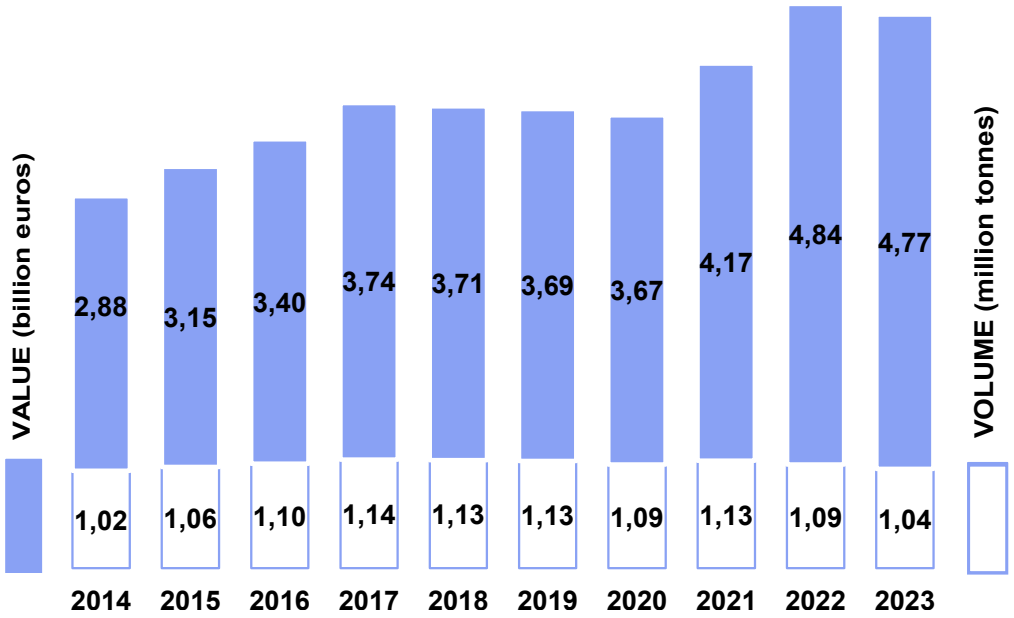
AQUACULTURE

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat, FAO and FEAP 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.

The data available for the environment production for 2023 is, according to Eurostat, only available in aggregated terms. However, the following main production methods were used: on bottom, tanks and raceways, ponds, enclosures in sea and brackish water and unspecified methods.

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



Main commercial species farmed and % of total

2023, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes

TROUT	874	18%	357	34%	MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.
EUROPEAN SEABASS	638	13%	171	16%	TROUT
OYSTER	583	12%	105	10%	GILTHEAD SEABREAM
GILTHEAD SEABREAM	580	12%	105	10%	OYSTER
MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.	463	10%	87	8%	EUROPEAN SEABASS
OTHERS	1.629	34%	218	21%	OTHERS

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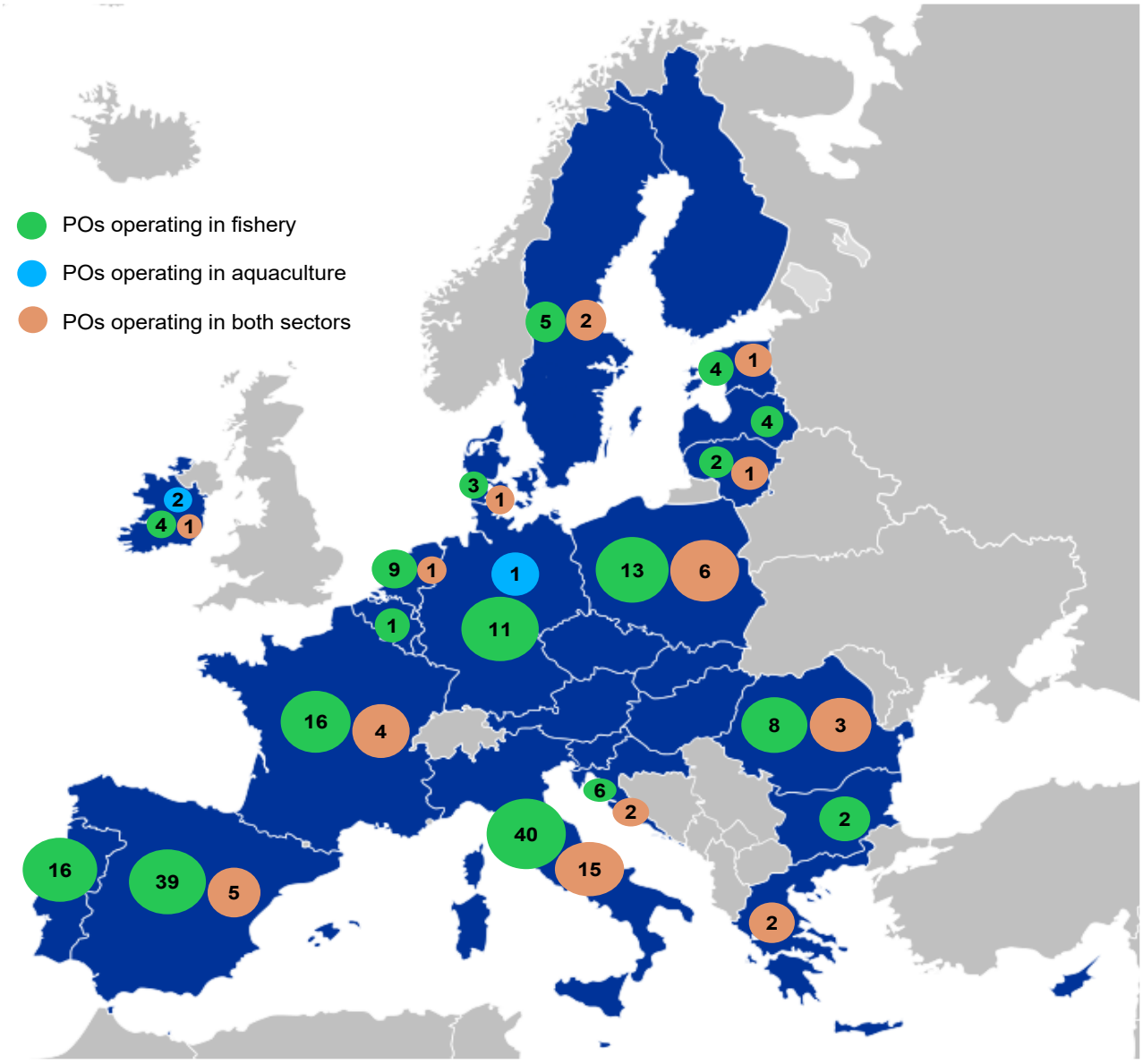
PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

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

In the EU-27 **230 producer organisations (POs)** and **10 associations 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.

All associations of POs operate in the fishery sector. Of the 230 POs, 183 operate in the fishery sector, 44 in aquaculture and 3 are involved in both sectors.



European market observatory for fisheries and aquaculture products

COUNTRY PROFILE

EUROPEAN UNION

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FIRST SALES

2025, source: EUMOFA

First sale concerns the fish that is sold or registered at an auction center or to registered buyers, or to producer organisations (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.

In 2025, total first sales in EU countries as transmitted to EUMOFA* amounted to 2 million tonnes and 4 billion euros. the top-5 places of sale were Vigo (ES), Killybegs (IE), A Coruña (ES), Huelva (ES) and Boulogne-sur-Mer (FR). They covered together 12% and 12% of total first sales, respectively in terms of volume and value.

*Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Top-5 places of sale	Volume (1.000 tonnes)	Value (million euros)	Top-3 main commercial species (in value)
Vigo (ES)	33.547	138	Monk, swordfish, other sharks
Killybegs (IE)	141.258	107	Mackerel, blue whiting, Atlantic horse mackerel
A Coruña (ES)	28.452	89	Hake, swordfish, Atlantic horse mackerel
Huelva (ES)	5.727	80	Miscellaneous shrimps, warmwater shrimps, deep-water rose shrimps
Boulogne-sur-Mer (FR)	25.599	71	Squid, cuttlefish, scallop

WHOLESALE

Wholesale is an intermediary stage in the distribution channel that buys in bulk and sells to resellers (e.g. retailers) rather than to consumers.
In the European Union, the wholesale stage is diversified. In most countries, fishery and aquaculture products are sold wholesale in cash & carry shops. In some countries with long-standing tradition of fresh fish consumption (France, Italy, Spain), they might be sold in dedicated wholesale marketplaces. In some other countries, which do not have such specialised wholesale infrastructures, the wholesaling activities are performed by companies operating as wholesalers.

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 107.000 persons were employed in the EU-27, fish processing industry in 2023. The sector recorded in 2023 a value added of 6 billion euros, covering 2% of the value added of total manufacture of food products. In 2024, the main products sold were “Fish fillets in batter or breadcrumbs including fish fingers (excluding prepared meals and dishes)”, “Flours, meals and pellets of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates, unfit for human consumption”, “Prepared meals and dishes based on fish, crustaceans and molluscs” and “Crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates and seaweed, otherwise prepared or preserved” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

3.390 companies
Net turnover: 36 billion euros
(2024, source: Eurostat - SBS)

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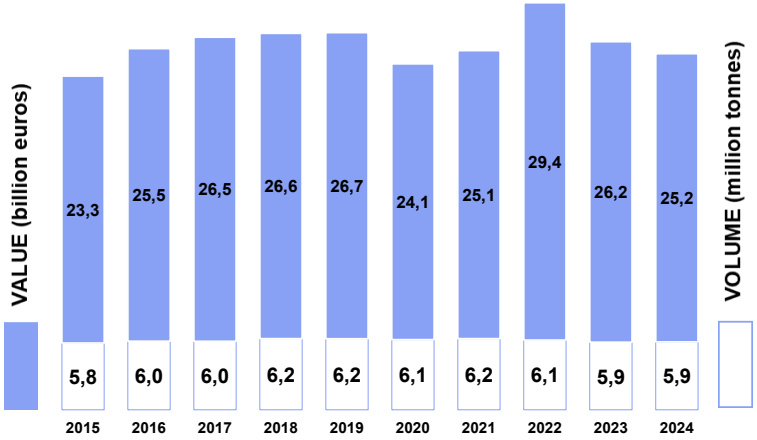
IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data

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

IMPORT

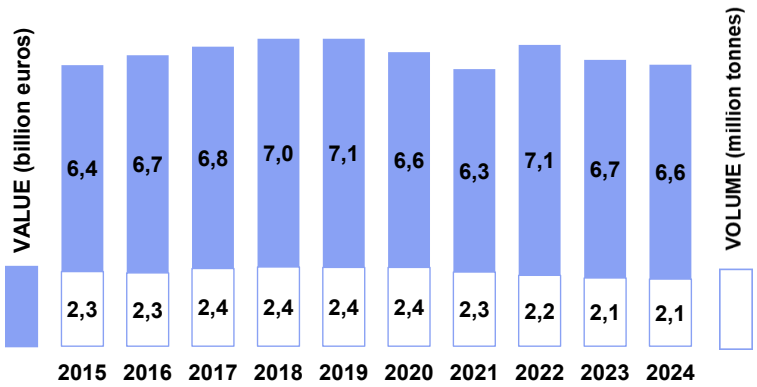


Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2024, billion euros (nominal value)

SALMON	8.388	28%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY WARMWATER)	3.498	12%
COD	2.203	7%
SKIPJACK TUNA	1.731	6%
SQUID	1.184	4%
OTHERS	12.777	43%

EXPORT



Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2024, billion euros (nominal value)

SALMON	1.296	17%
FISH OIL	647	8%
FISHMEAL	361	5%
COD	347	4%
COLDWATER SHRIMPS	327	4%
OTHERS	4.849	62%

Main countries of **ORIGIN** (in value, 2024)

- Norway 28%
- Ecuador 6%
- Morocco 6%
- United Kingdom 5%

Main countries of **DESTINATION** (in value, 2024)

- United States 16%
- United Kingdom 12%
- Norway 12%
- China 9%

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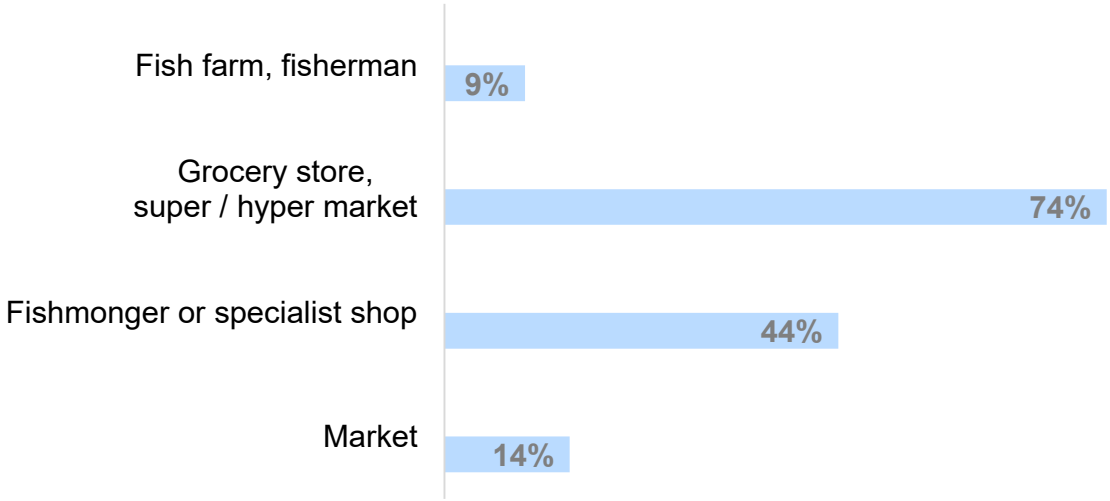
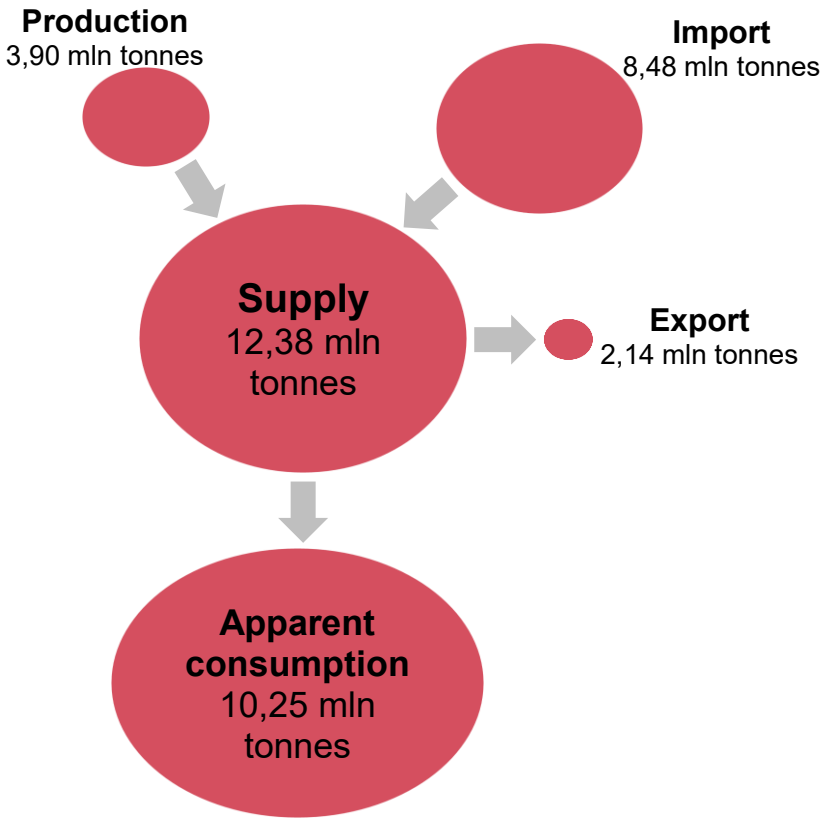
DISTRIBUTION

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



SUPPLY BALANCE

2023 (EU-27), data in live weight equivalent. Source: EUMOFA



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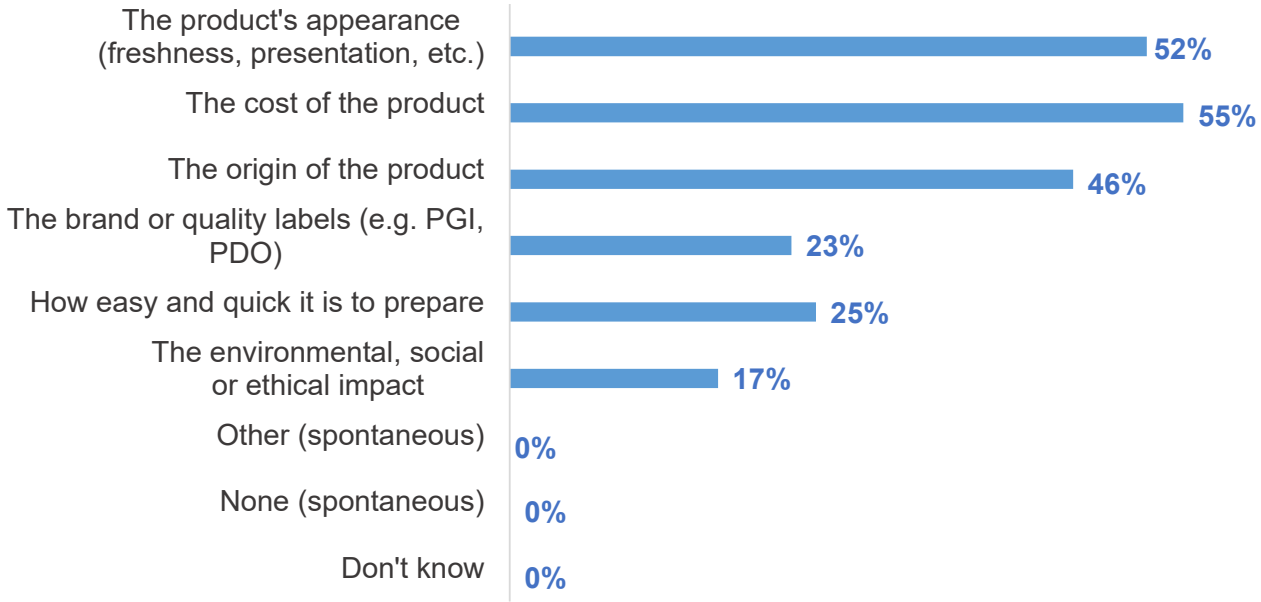
CONSUMPTION

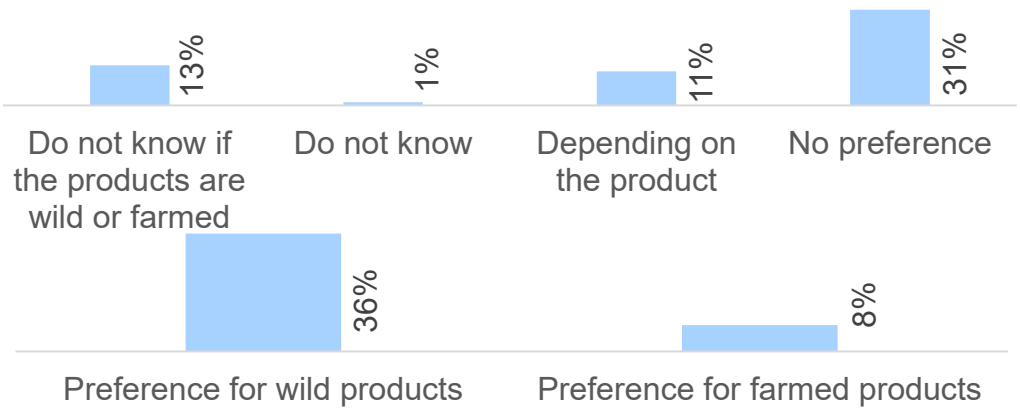
In 2023, apparent consumption in the EU-27 was estimated at 22,89 kg per capita, a 3% decrease compared with 2022. The most consumed species were tuna, salmon, Alaska pollock, shrimps, cod, mussel, hake and herring (source: EUMOFA).

22,89 kg
per capita in live weight equivalent
(2023, source: EUMOFA)

Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2024)



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



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EU DATA IN EUMOFA

LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with national sources' data. 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 and FEAP 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 national authorities on a weekly and monthly basis. Weekly data are monitored for a selection of main commercial species and places of sale / auctions. Monthly data cover all species sold in the EU places of sale / auctions. Both 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

Data are collected from national authorities and private providers on a weekly basis, and, for Greece, also on a monthly basis. Weekly prices (and for Greece, also volumes and values) are monitored for a selection of main commercial species and markets. Monthly volumes and values cover all species sold in the port of Piraeus. Both weekly and monthly data are accessible through dashboards and through the bulk download facility.

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

Volumes and values of household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products are collected from Europanel based on panel reporting. Data are monitored for a selection of countries, main commercial species + the item "Others", aggregating all other species. Data are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through simple tables and the bulk download facility. Average weekly prices are accessible through dashboards, and through the bulk download facility. In addition, retail prices for a selection of countries and main

SUPPLY BALANCE

The supply balance sheet gives an estimate of the annual supply of fishery and aquaculture products available for human consumption. Data of the supply balance sheet are in live weight equivalent. The supply balance sheet is broken down by commodity group and main commercial species; for each species, details in terms of production method are provided (wild/farmed). Sources of data are:

- For catches, Eurostat - Fishery. Amounts of catches not destined for human consumption are estimated using proxies based on

commercial species are collected on a weekly and monthly basis from national authorities. Retail prices from online shops are also available, as collected via price-scraper.

destination use of landings (as available in Eurostat);

- For aquaculture, Eurostat - Fishery, FAO and FEAP;
- For import-export, Eurostat – COMEXT.