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ITALY IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2023, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2023, Italy was the 4th largest EU-27 country in terms of aquaculture production, while it ranked 10th in terms on fishery production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Italy	% world	% EU-27
Catches	91.681	3.555	128	0,1%	4%
Aquaculture	136.140	1.043	130	0,1%	12%
Total	**227.821**	**4.598**	**258**	**0,1%**	**6%**

FISHING FLEET

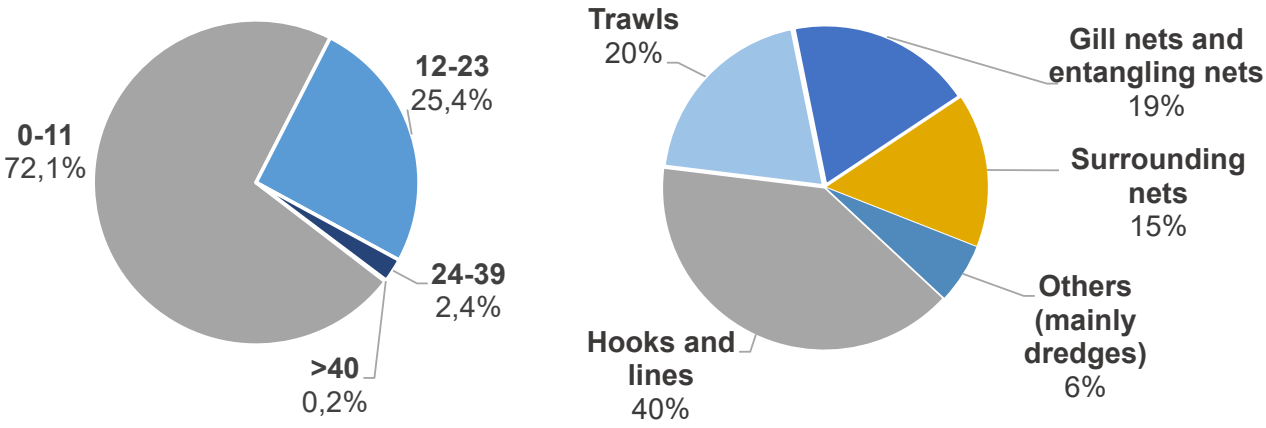
Fleet: 2024, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat Employment: 2023, source: JRC

Vessels (2024)	Capacity (2024)		Power (2024)
Number: 12.297	GT: 146.313		KW: 948.883
TOTAL FTE: 13.366 (2023, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	**12-23 m**	**24-39 m**	**>40 m**
Jobs (FTE): 43%	Jobs (FTE): 45%	Jobs (FTE): 11%	Jobs (FTE): 1%

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

The Italian fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)



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LANDINGS

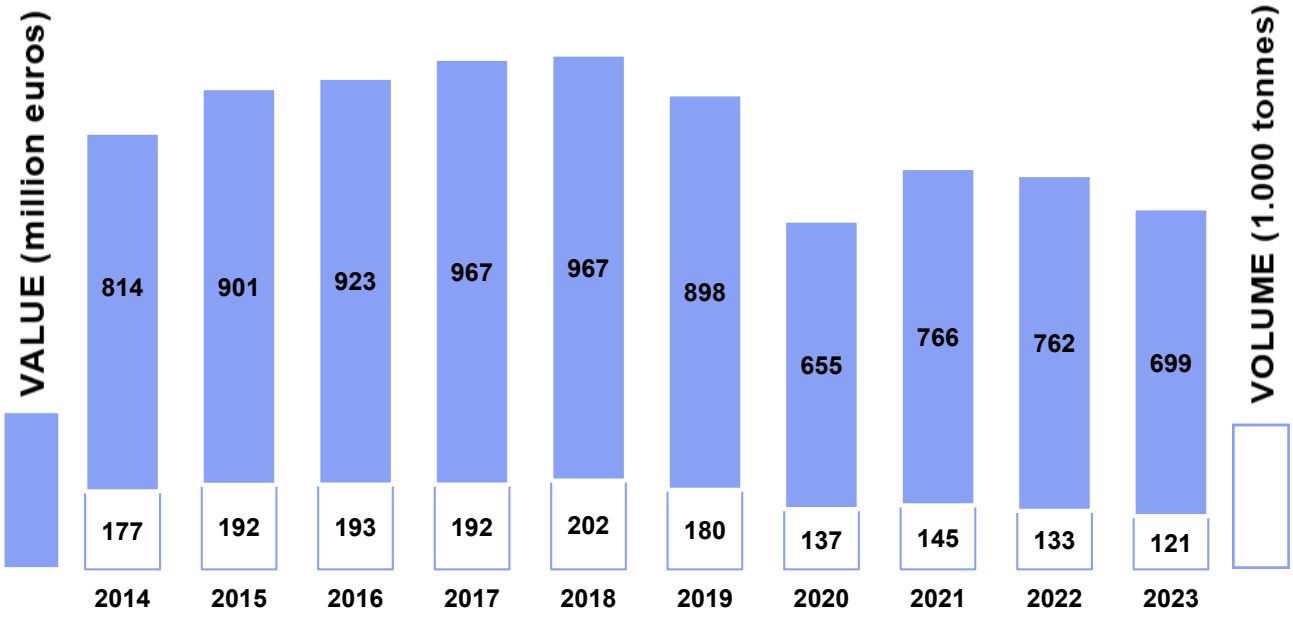
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data

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.

In 2023, 96% of landings in Italy included fresh whole/gutted products and 4% included frozen products. As for destination use, 96% of landings were for human consumption and 4% for industrial uses.

There are 328 fishing ports registered in Italy (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

MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMPS	67	10%	20	16%	ANCHOVY
ANCHOVY	63	9%	18	15%	CLAM
CLAM	53	8%	8	7%	SARDINE
HAKE	45	6%	7	6%	HAKE
BLUEFIN TUNA	44	6%	6	5%	DEEP-WATER ROSE SHRIMPS
OTHERS	427	61%	62	51%	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.

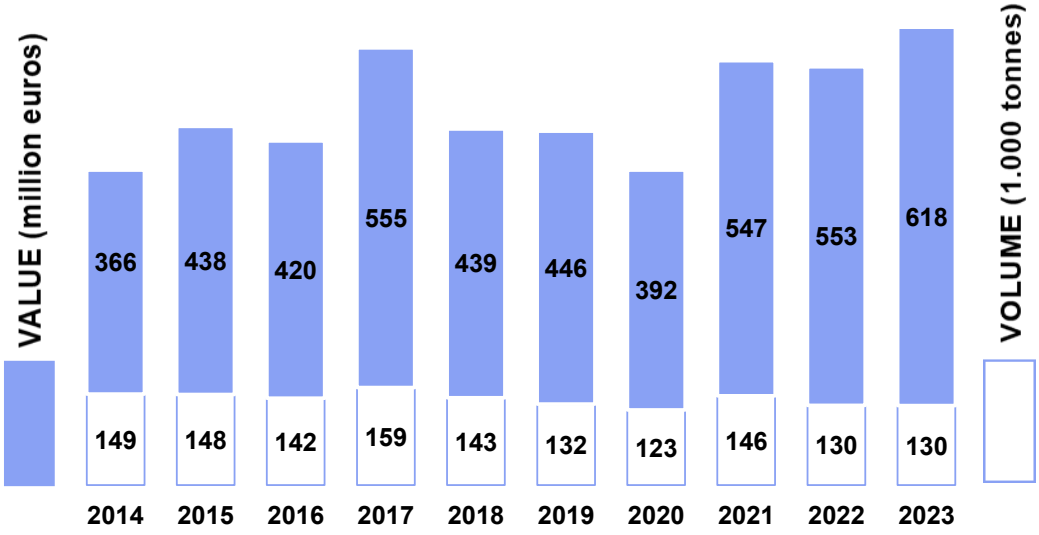
71% of Italian production occurs in sea and brackish water and 29% in freshwater.

In 2023, the following main production methods were used:

- 44% of production: off bottom in sea and brackish water;
- 27% of production: in tanks and raceways, almost entirely in freshwater (slight portion in sea and brackish water);
- 17% of production: on bottom in sea and brackish water;
- 8% of production: in cages, entirely in sea and brackish water;
- 3% of production: in ponds in freshwater;

The rest (1%) was farmed in enclosures and pens in sea and brackish water.

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	207	33%	57	44%	MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.
CLAM	199	32%	35	27%	TROUT
MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.	84	14%	22	17%	CLAM
GILTHEAD SEABREAM	59	10%	7	6%	GILTHEAD SEABREAM
EUROPEAN SEABASS	40	7%	5	4%	EUROPEAN SEABASS
OTHERS	29	5%	3	3%	OTHERS

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PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

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

In Italy, **55 producer organisations (POs)** and **2 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.

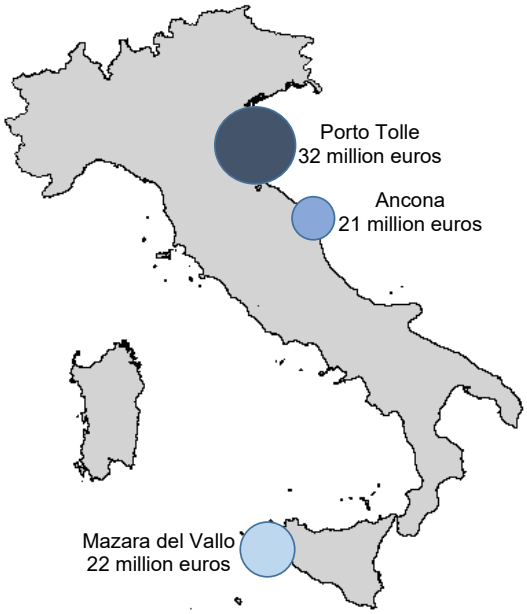
Of the 55 POs, 40 operate in the fishery sector and 15 in aquaculture. The 2 associations of POs operate in the fishery sector.

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.
In 2025, total first sales in Italian places of sale amounted to 52.166 tonnes and 266 million euros.

The top-3 places of sale covered 22% and 28% 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)
Porto Tolle	4.178	32	Anchovy, sardine, squillid
Mazara del Vallo	961	22	Miscellaneous shrimps, Norway lobster, deep-water rose shrimps
Ancona	6.321	21	Clam, warmwater shrimps, common sole

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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 Italy, there are two main wholesale market places involved in sales of fishery and aquaculture products, namely Rome and Milan.

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 6.403 persons were employed in the Italian fish processing industry in 2023. The sector recorded a value added of 447 million euros, covering 1% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2024, the main products sold were “Prepared or preserved tuna, skipjack and Atlantic bonito, whole or in pieces (excl. minced products and prepared meals and dishes)” and “Frozen whole salt water fish” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

384 companies
Net turnover: 3,14 billion euros
(2024, source: Eurostat - SBS)

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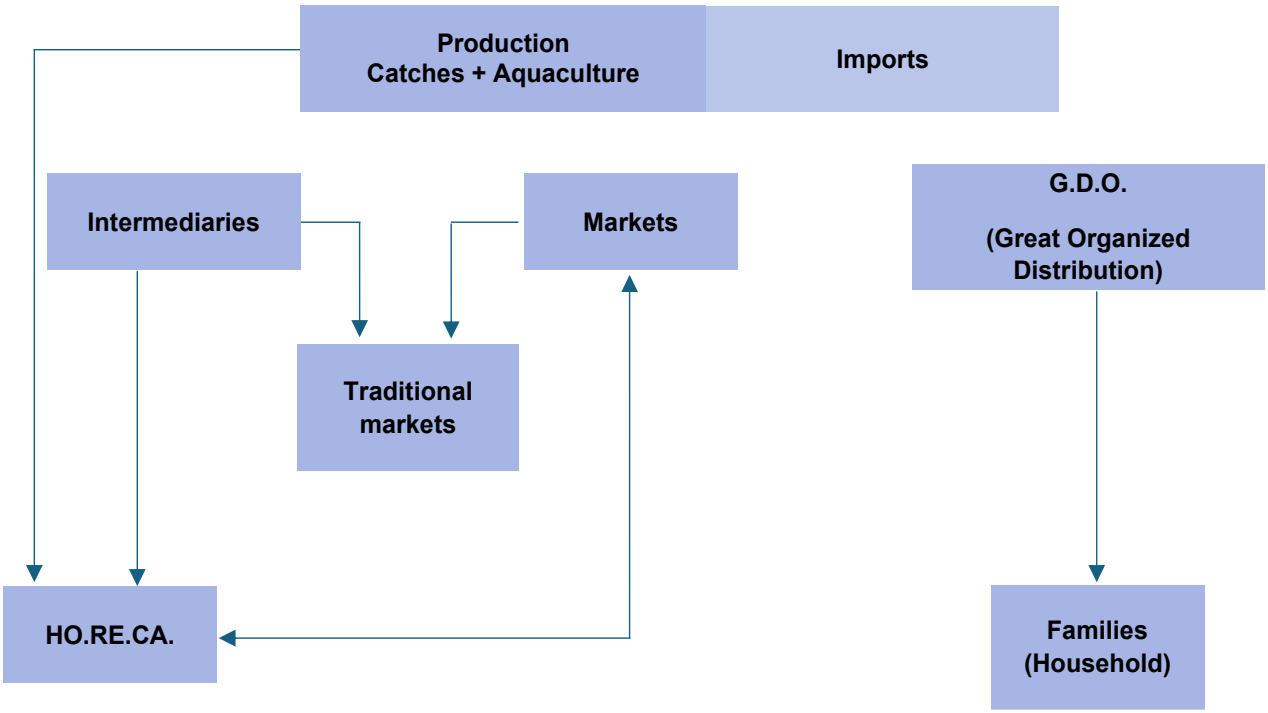
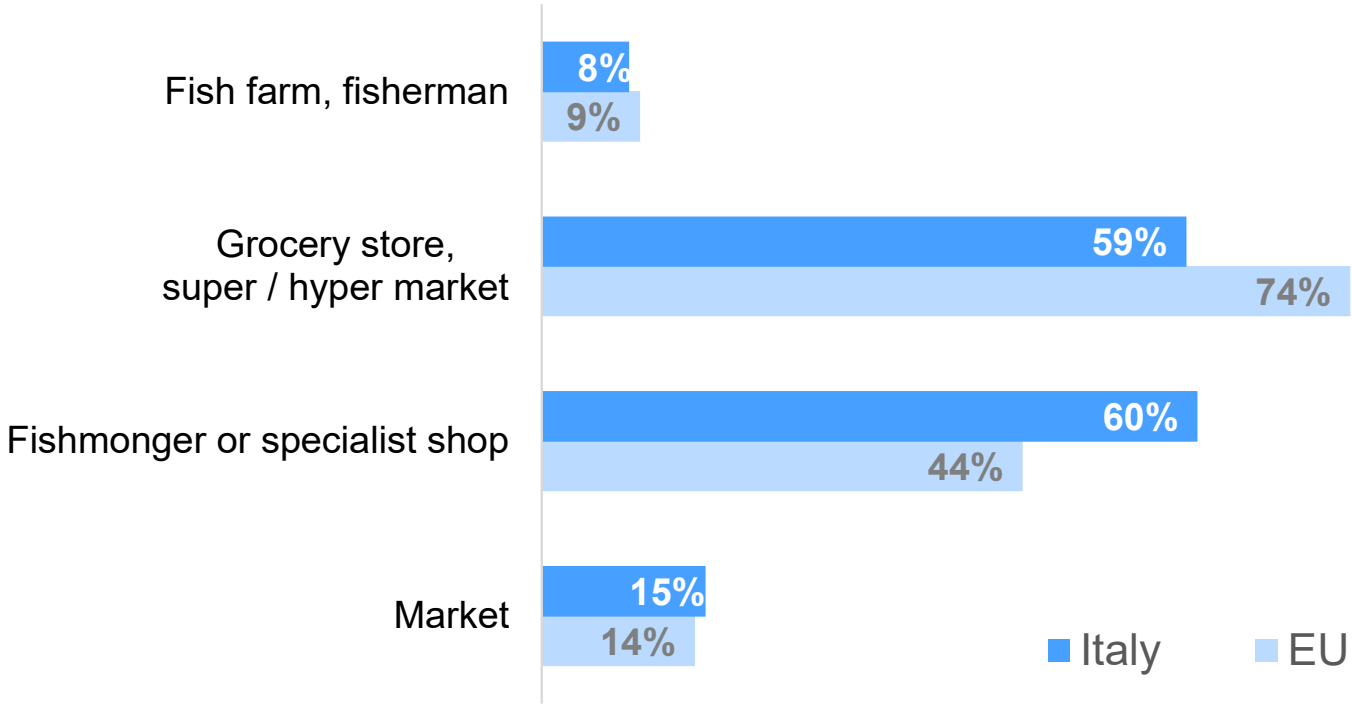
DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in Italy (source: Ministero delle Attività Produttive):



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



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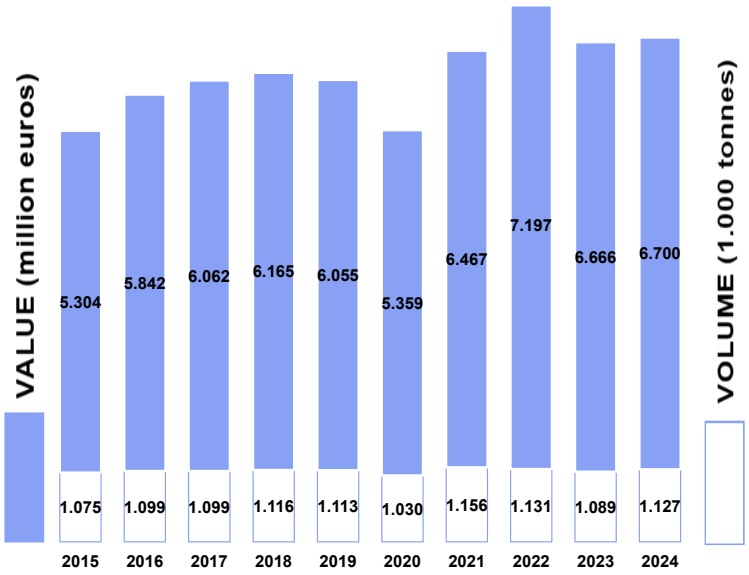
IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data

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

IMPORT

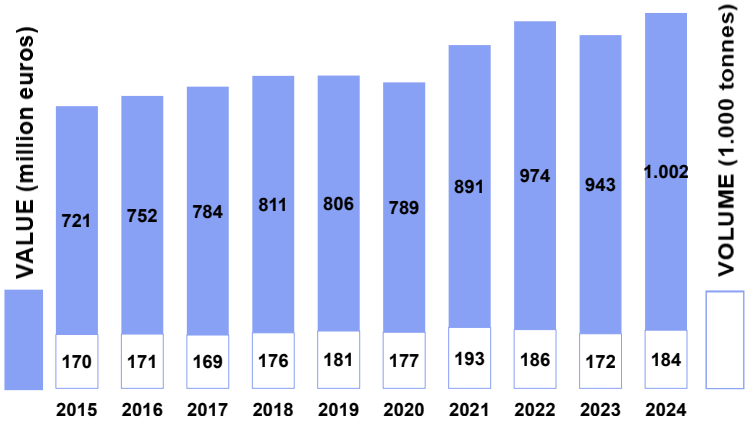


Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	1202	16%
TUNA (MOSTLY SKIPJACK)	967	13%
SQUID	586	8%
OCTOPUS	417	5%
MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMPS	364	5%
OTHERS	4057	53%

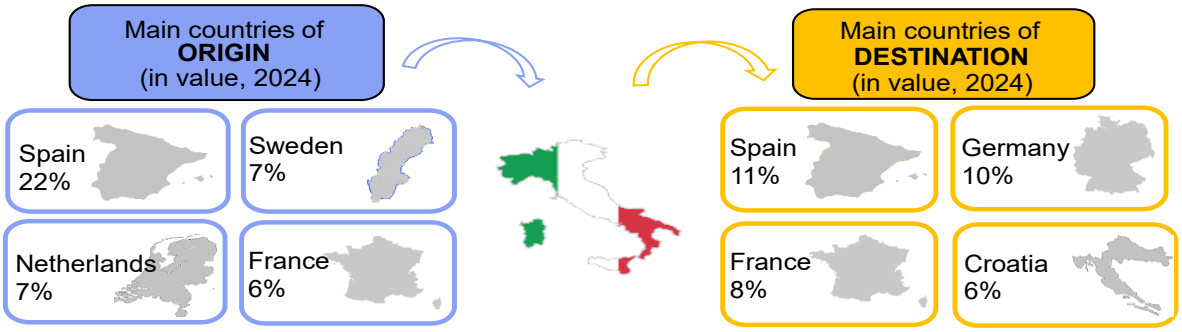
EXPORT



Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

TUNA (MOSTLY SKIPJACK)	282	25%
ANCHOVY	97	9%
TROUT	53	5%
GILTHEAD SEABREAM	46	4%
OCTOPUS	43	4%
OTHERS	614	54%



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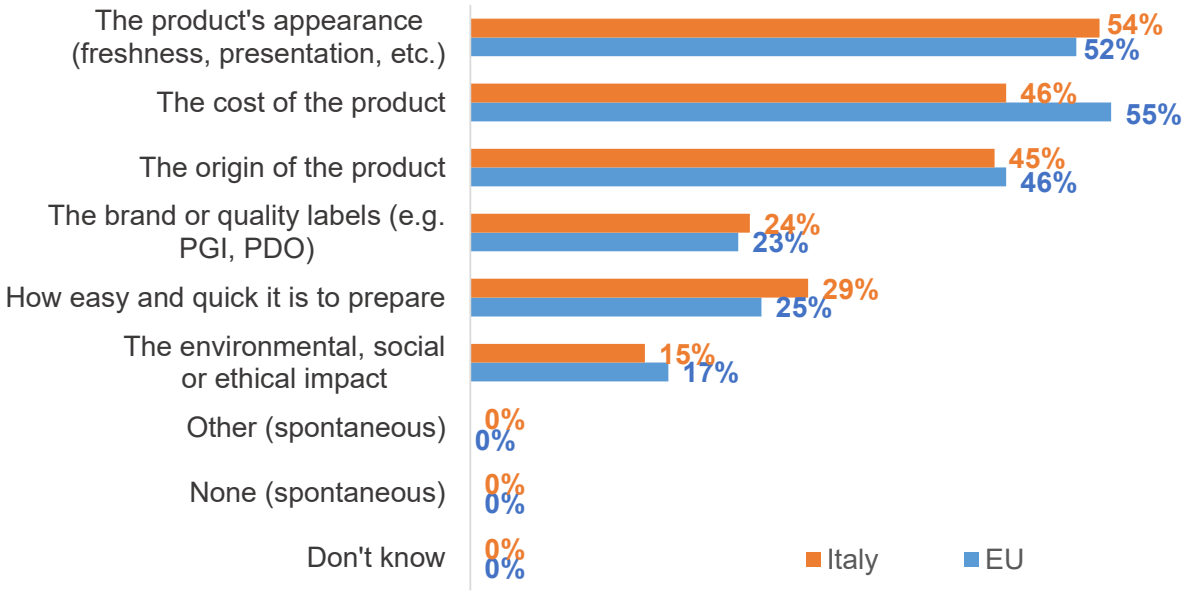
CONSUMPTION

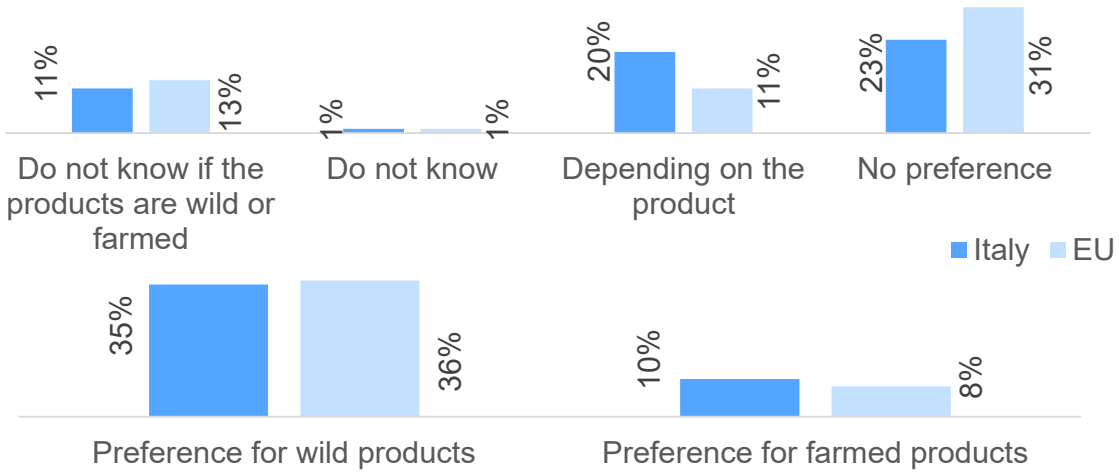
In 2023, apparent consumption was estimated at 30,38 kg per capita, a 1% increase compared with 2022. The most consumed species were yellowfin tuna, squid, salmon, mussel, skipjack tuna and cod (source: EUMOFA).

30,38 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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THE COUNTRY IN EUMOFA

LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery. 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 SIAN on a monthly basis, and cover all species sold in Italian places of sale. Data are accessible through dashboards, as well as through 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

Volumes and values of household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products are collected from Europanel based on panel reporting. Data are monitored for 10 main commercial species + the item “Others”, aggregating all other species. Retail prices from online shops are available, as collected via price-scraper. Data are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through dashboards and the bulk download facility.