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MALTA IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2023, sources: Eurostat and FAO

Malta is a minor EU-27 producer of fishery products, while it ranked 14th in the EU in terms of aquaculture production in 2023.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Malta	% world	% EU-27
Catches	91.681	3.555	2	0,003%	0,06%
Aquaculture	136.140	1.043	21	0,014%	1,99%
Total	**227.821**	**4.598**	**23**	**0,009%**	**0,50%**

FISHING FLEET

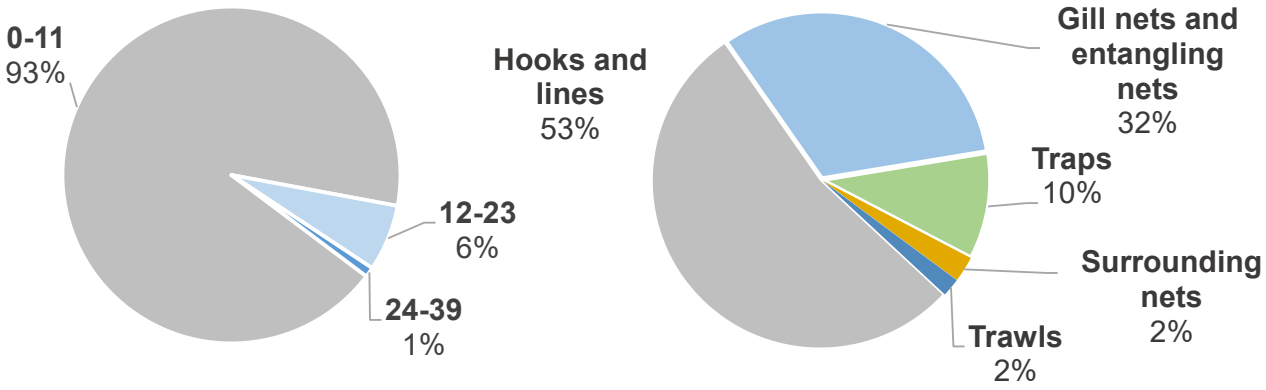
Fleet: 2024, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat Employment: 2023, source: JRC

Vessels (2024)	Capacity (2024)	Power (2024)	
Number: 845	GT: 6.652	KW: 70.231	
TOTAL FTE: 728 (2023, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	**12-23 m**	**24-39 m**	**>40 m**
Jobs (FTE): 73%	Jobs (FTE): 15%	Jobs (FTE): 12%	Jobs (FTE): 0%

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

The Maltese fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)



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LANDINGS

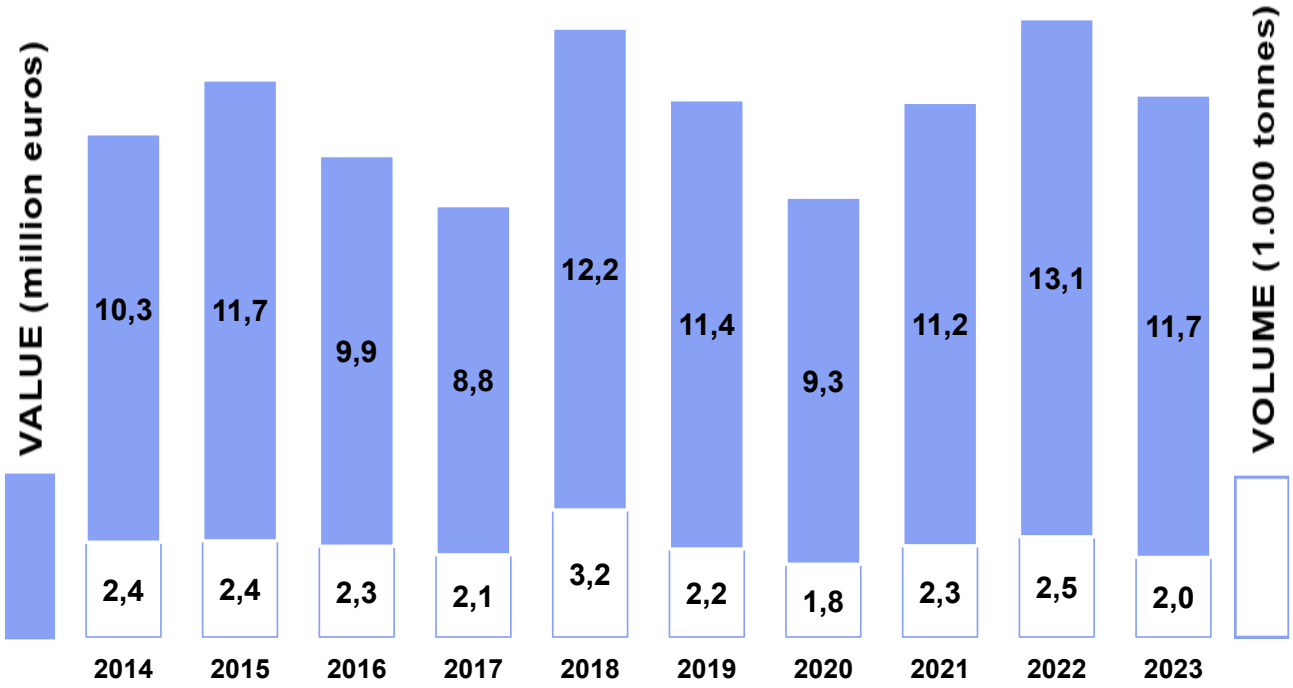
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data

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 Malta only include fresh whole/gutted products destined for human consumption.

There are 12 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

SWORDFISH	3,08	26%	0,36	18%	SWORDFISH
MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMPS	1,51	13%	0,26	13%	MACKEREL
BLUEFIN TUNA	1,06	9%	0,13	7%	SPRAT (= BRISLING)
OCTOPUS	0,35	3%	0,13	6%	BUEFIN TUNA
RED MULLET	0,29	2%	0,11	6%	SARDINE
OTHERS	5,42	46%	1,02	51%	OTHERS

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AQUACULTURE

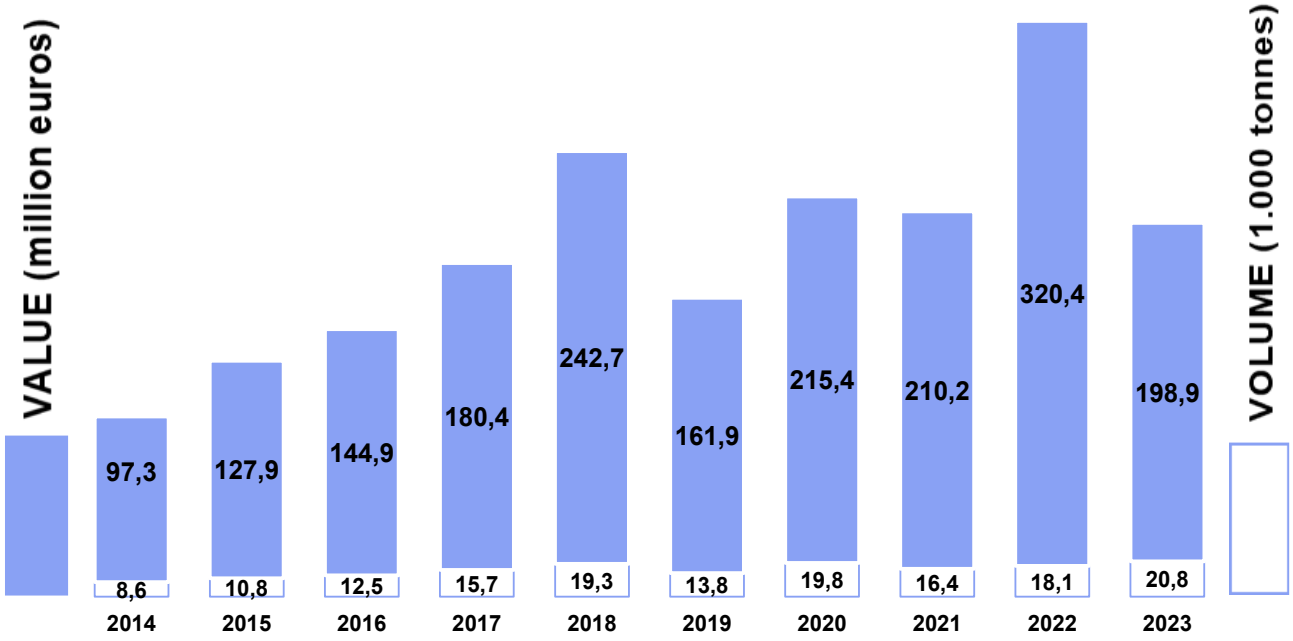
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data

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.

In Malta, aquaculture occurs in sea and brackish water. The following main production methods were used in 2023:

- 90% of production: in cages;
- 10% of production: in enclosures and pens.

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

BLUEFIN TUNA	188,96	94,98%	18,62	89,52%	BLUEFIN TUNA
GILTHEAD SEABREAM	9,85	4,95%	2,16	10,41%	GILTHEAD SEABREAM
EUROPEAN SEABASS	0,14	0,07%	0,02	0,07%	EUROPEAN SEABASS

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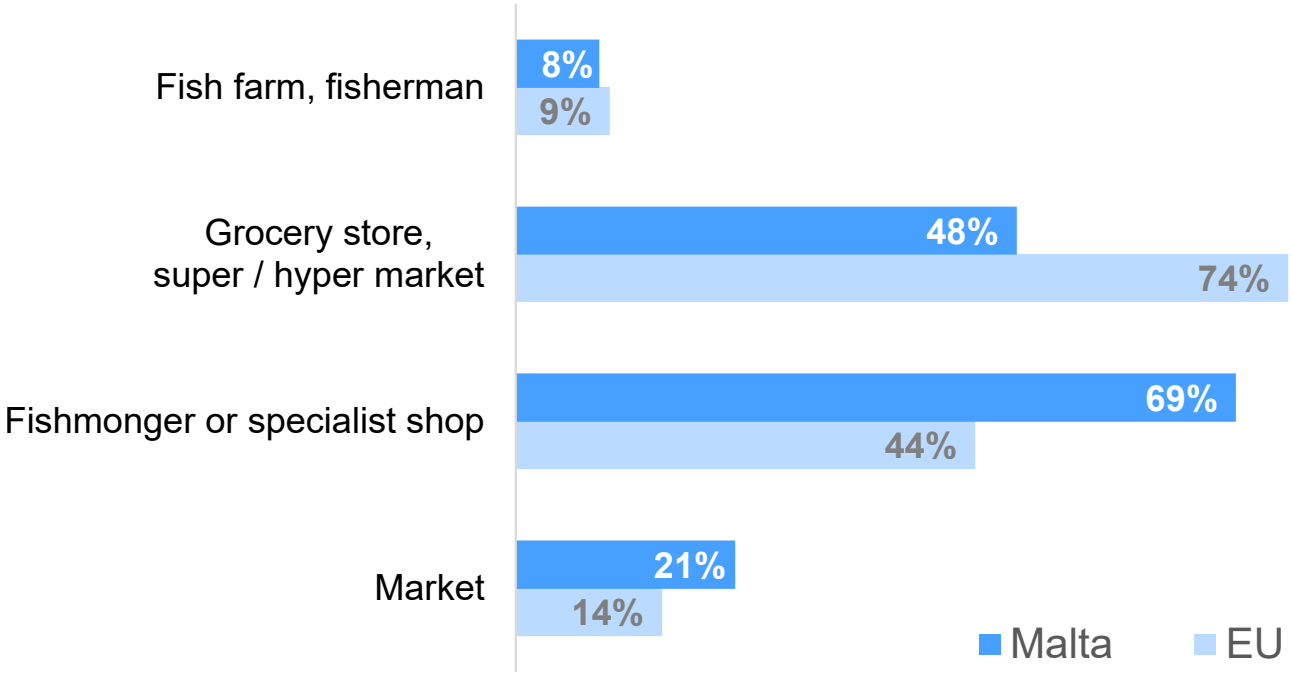
DISTRIBUTION

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



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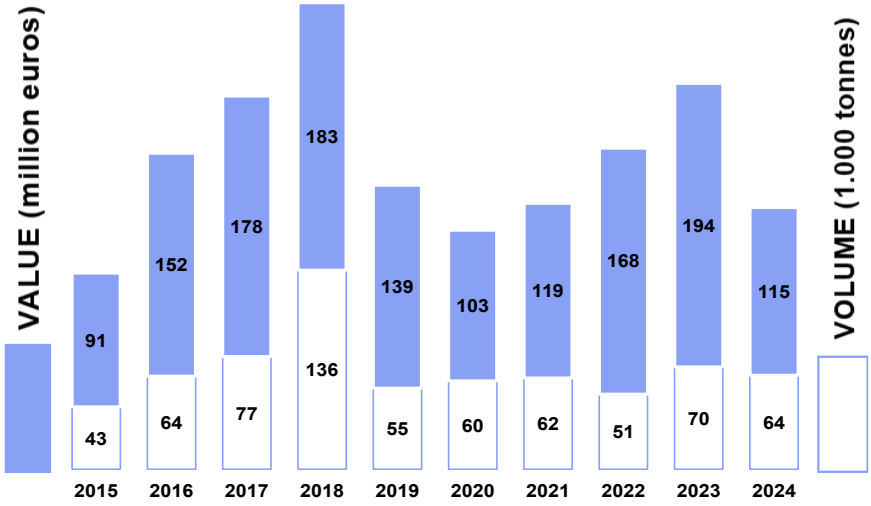
IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data

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

IMPORT

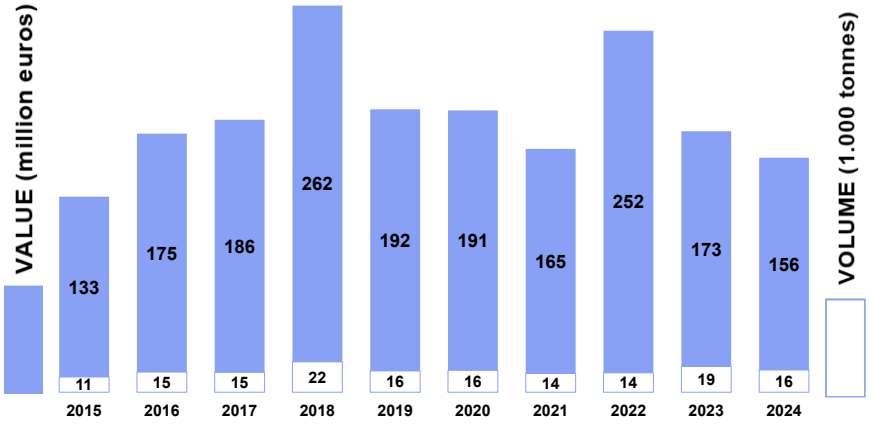


Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

TUNA (MOSTLY BLUEFIN)	57	42%
HERRING	36	27%
SALMON	9	7%
MACKEREL	8	6%
MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMPS	2	2%
OTHERS	23	17%

EXPORT



Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

TUNA (MOSTLY MISCELLANEOUS)	134	73%
GILTHEAD SEABREAM	10	6%
FISHMEAL	1	1%
OTHERS	37	20%

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

- Netherlands 26%
- Italy 24%
- France 8%
- Spain 6%

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

- Japan 77%
- Republic of Korea 13%
- Italy 7%
- China 2%

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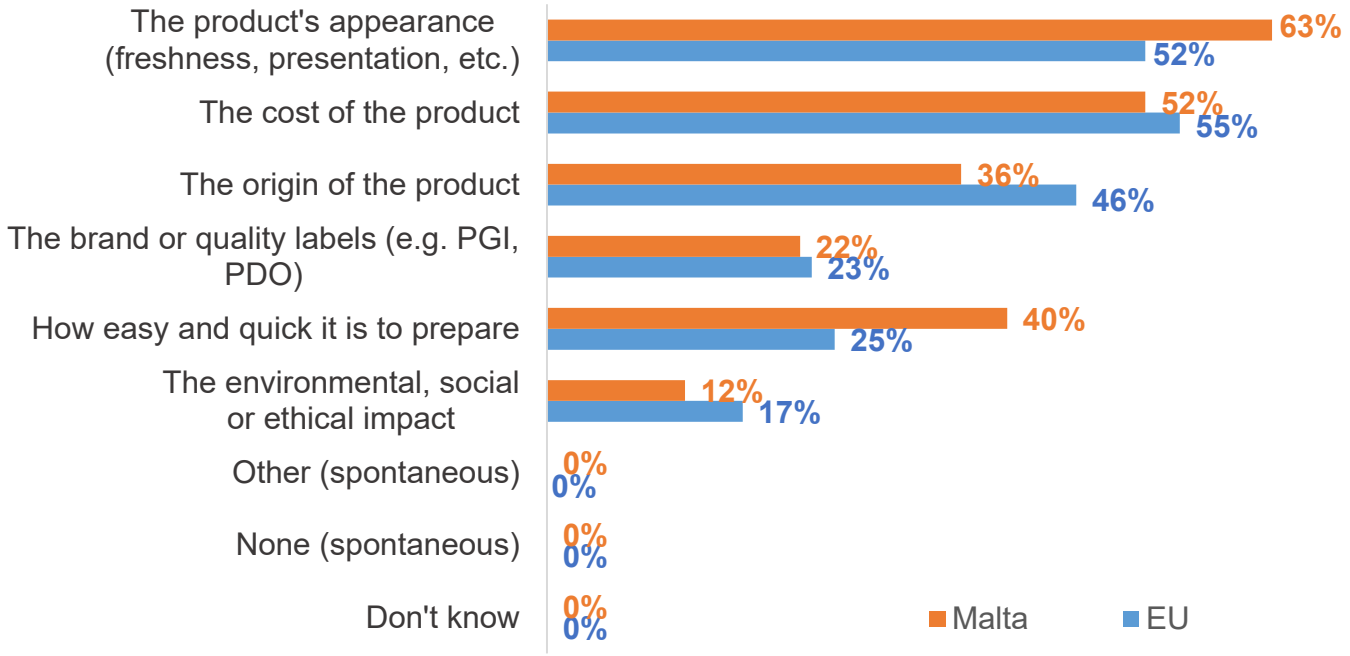
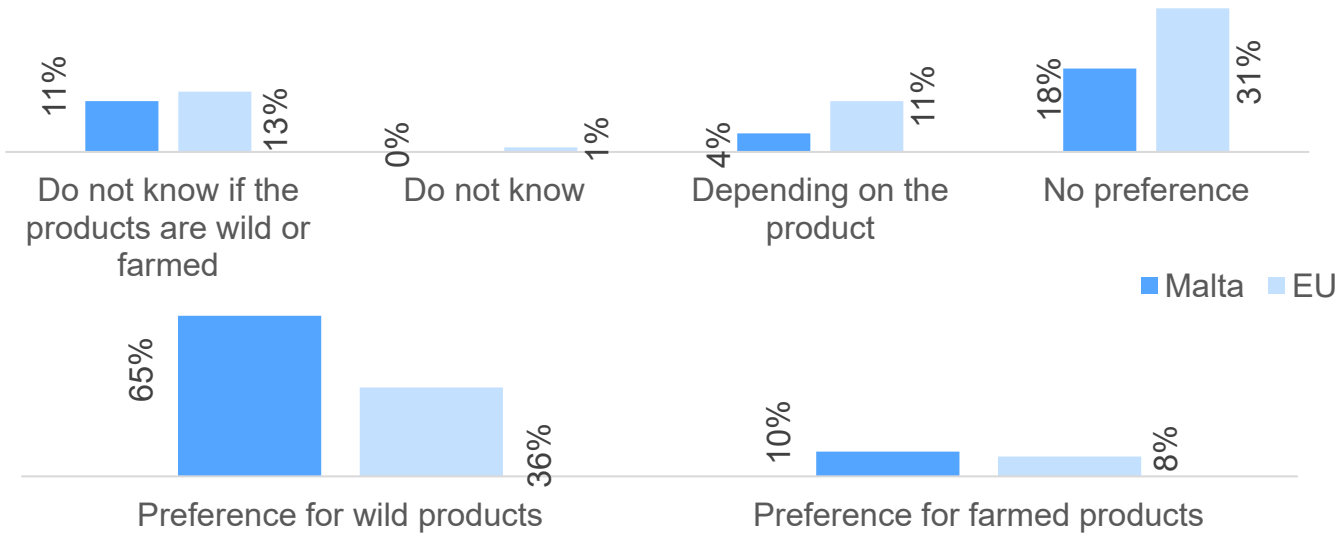
CONSUMPTION

Given the significant relevance of imports of frozen fish likely used directly as fish feed in the Maltese bluefin tuna fattening industry, available data and information for Malta do not allow to produce precise estimates. However, annual per capita apparent consumption can be estimated between 30-40 kg LWE.

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.

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

FIRST SALES

No data available

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

No data available

CONSUMPTION

No data available