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BULGARIA IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2019, sources: Eurostat and FAO

Bulgaria is a minor EU producer of fishery products. As for aquaculture production, in 2019 it ranked 17th among EU-28 producing countries (i.e. UK included).

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-28	Bulgaria	% world	% EU-28
Catches	93.519	4.824	10	0,01%	0,21%
Aquaculture	120.104	1.367	12	0,01%	0,88%
Total	213.623	6.191	22	0,01%	0,36%

FISHING FLEET

Fleet: 2019, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat

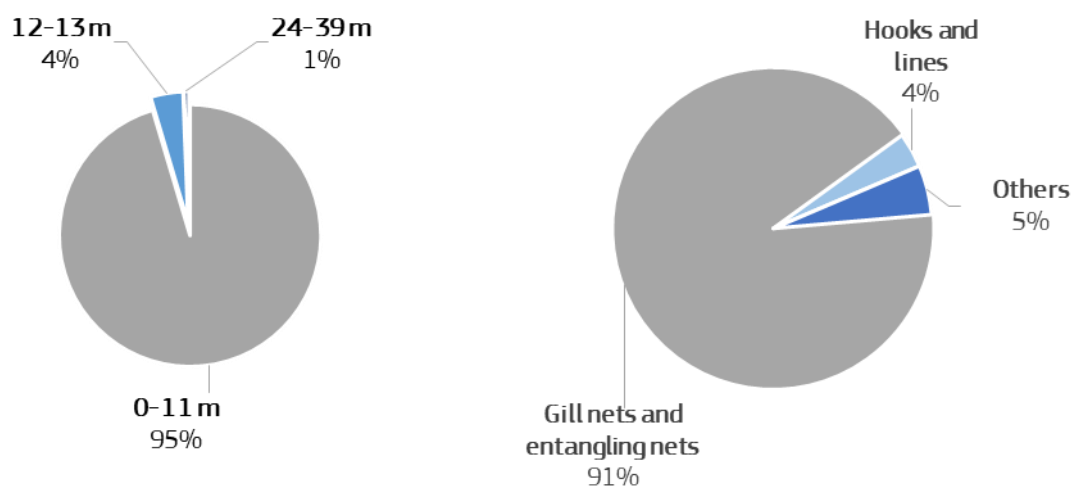
Employment: 2018, source: JRC

Vessels (2019)	Capacity (2019)	Power (2019)	
Number: 1.842	GT: 6.027	KW: 53.571	
TOTAL FTE: 621,7 (2018, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 68%	Jobs (FTE): 24%	Jobs (FTE): 8%	Jobs (FTE): 0%

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

The Bulgarian fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)





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LANDINGS

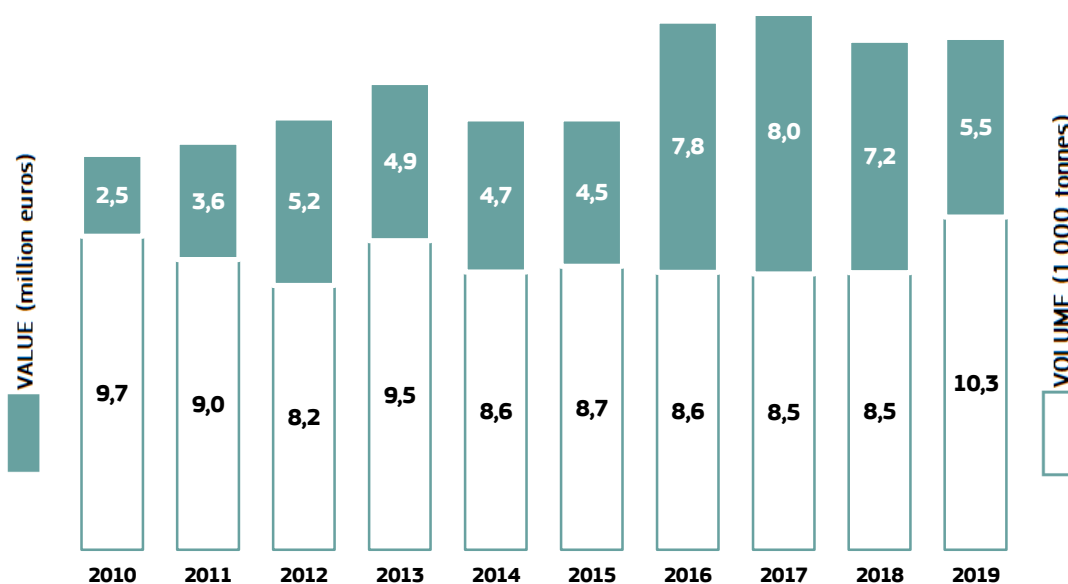
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data.

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 2019, landings in Bulgaria are destined for human consumption only, and they almost entirely include fresh products.

There are 74 fishing ports registered in the country (source: EU Master Data Register, 24 November 2021).

Total landings. Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015)



Main commercial species landed and % of total

2019, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



OTHER MOLLUSCS AND
AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES

2,0

30%

SPRAT (=BRISLING)

1,7

25%

CLAM

1,6

24%

RED MULLET

0,4

7%

TURBOT

0,4

6%

OTHERS

0,5

8%



4,6

45%

SPRAT (=BRISLING)

4,2

41%

OTHER MOLLUSCS AND
AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES

0,6

5%

RED MULLET

0,5

5%

CLAM

0,1

1%

OTHER HORSE MACKEREL

0,3

3%

OTHERS



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AQUACULTURE

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and FAO data.

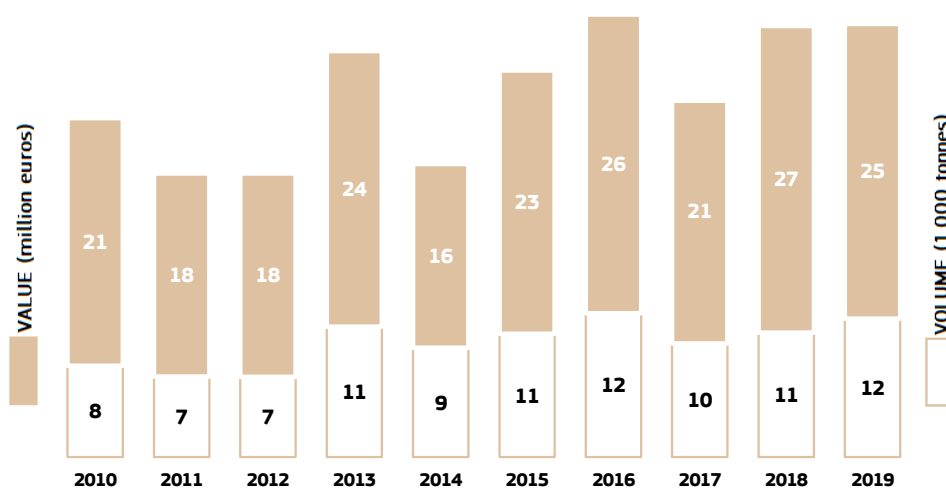
Aquaculture consists in the farming of aquatic (fresh or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Aquaculture data are reported in live weight equivalent and value.

In 2019, almost 77% of Bulgarian production occurred in freshwater and the rest in marine waters.

According to Eurostat in the 2019 the following main production methods are used in the country:

- Around 23% of production: off bottom, both in sea and brackish water;
- Around 3% of production: in tanks and raceways in freshwater;
- Around 1% of production: recirculation systems;
- The rest has been classified under fresh water using other methods for which no detail is available.

Total production. Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015)



Main commercial species farmed and % of total
2019, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



Species	Value (million euros)	% of total	Volume (1.000 tonnes)	% of total
TROUT	16	54%	5	38%
CARP	8	28%	4	32%
MUSSEL MYTILUS SPP.	2	8%	3	23%
OTHER FRESHWATER FISH	1	5%	1	4%
OTHERS	1	5%	0,3	3%



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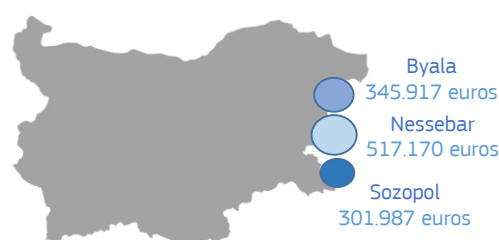
PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Data as of 15-12-2021, source: DG MARE, [link](#)

In Bulgaria, **2 producer organisation (PO)** is formally recognized, operating in the fishery sector. Its 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.

FIRST SALES 2021, 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 2021, total first sales in Bulgarian places of sale amounted to 4.012 tonnes and 2,9 million euros.



The top-3 places of sale covered 51% and 40% of total first sales, respectively in volume and value terms.

Top-3 places of sale	Volume (tonnes)	Value (euros)	Top-3 main commercial species (in value)
Nessebar	1.476	517.170	Sprat (=brisling), red mullet, clam
Byala	145	345.917	Clam, red mullet, sprat (=brisling)
Sozopol	390	301.987	Clam, sprat (=brisling), red mullet

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 Bulgaria, there is only one wholesale market, namely Bourgas (source: Eurofish).

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 1.675 persons were employed in the Bulgarian fish processing industry in 2019. The sector recorded a value added of 19,8 million euros, covering 2% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2020, the main products sold were "Prepared or preserved crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates (excl. chilled, frozen, dried, salted or in brine, crustaceans, in shell, cooked by steaming or boiling) excl. prepared meals and dishes" and "Prepared or preserved mackerel, whole or in pieces (excl. minced products and prepared meals and dishes)" (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

44 companies

Sales: 65,2 million euros

(2019, source: Eurostat - SBS)



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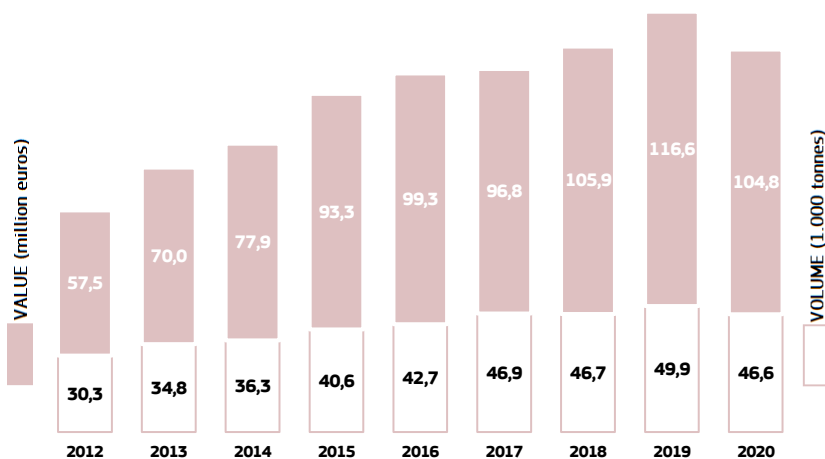
IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data. Values in the bar charts are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2015).

IMPORT

Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2020, million euros (nominal value)

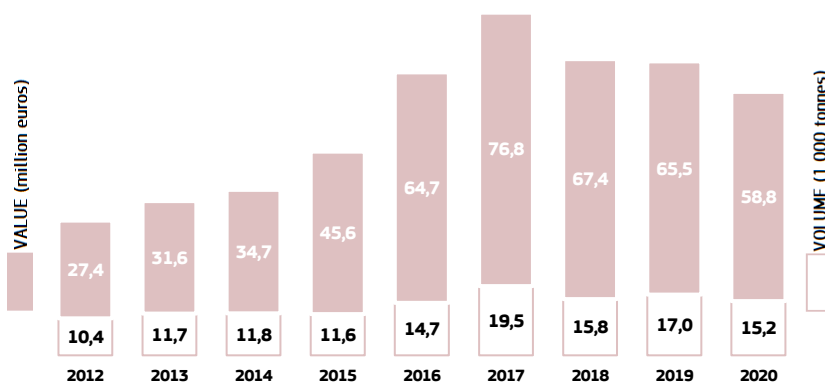


SALMON	15	13%
COLDWATER SHRIMP	13	12%
MACKEREL	11	10%
GILTHEAD SEABREAM	8	7%
OTHER PRODUCTS	7	6%
OTHERS	60	52%

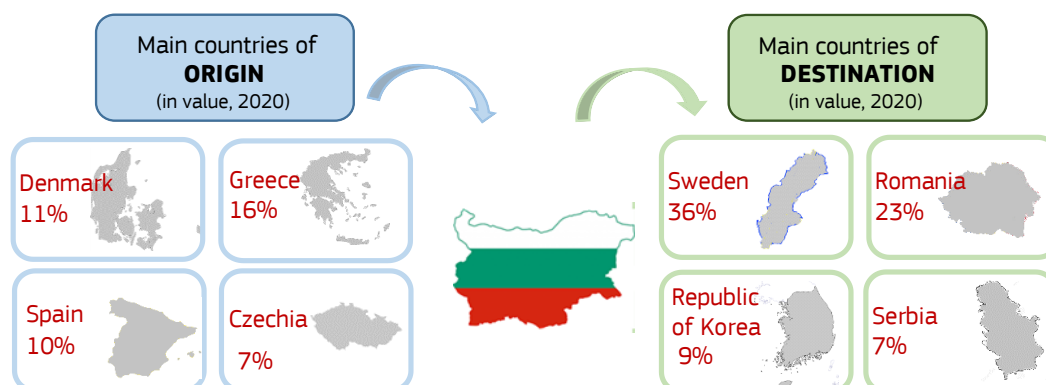
EXPORT

Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2020, million euros (nominal value)



MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMP	21	30%
OTHER MOLLUSCUS AND AQUATIC INVEREBRATES	7	9%
MACKEREL	5	7%
SALMON	4	6%
OTHER MARINE FISH	4	6%
OTHERS	30	42%

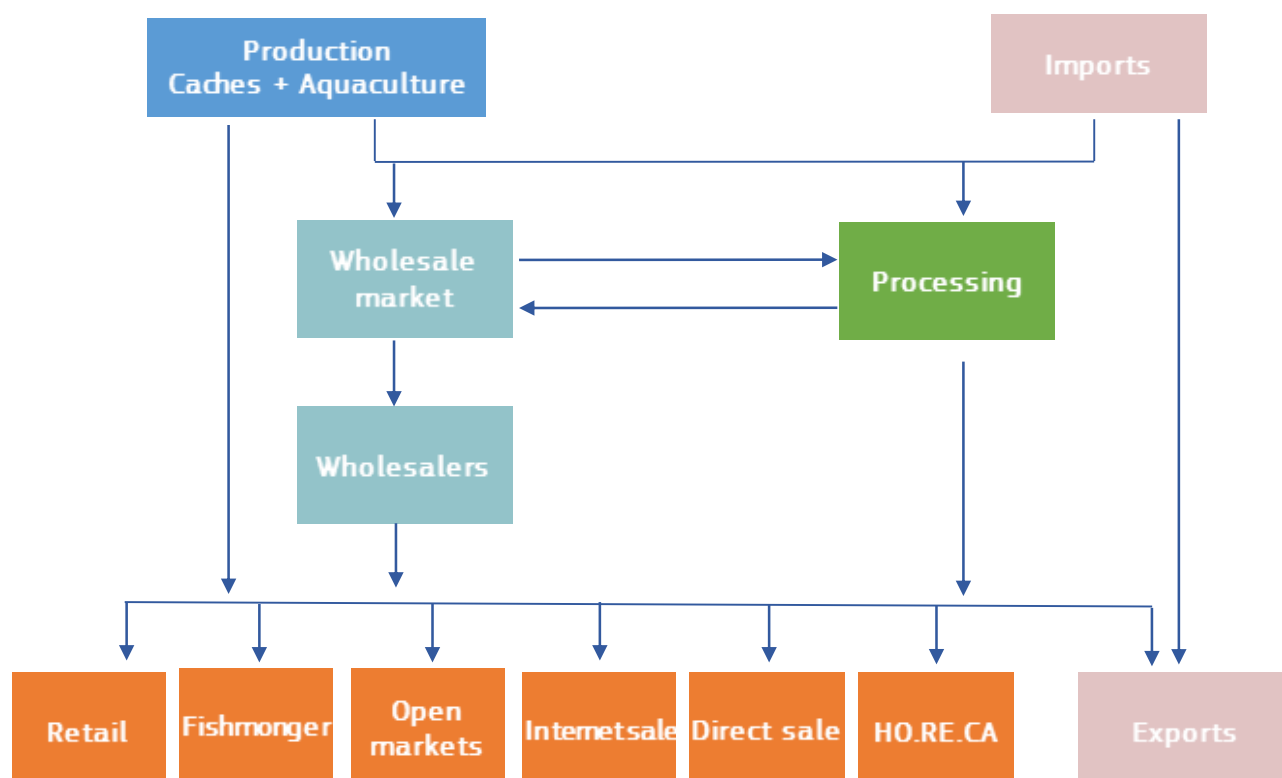




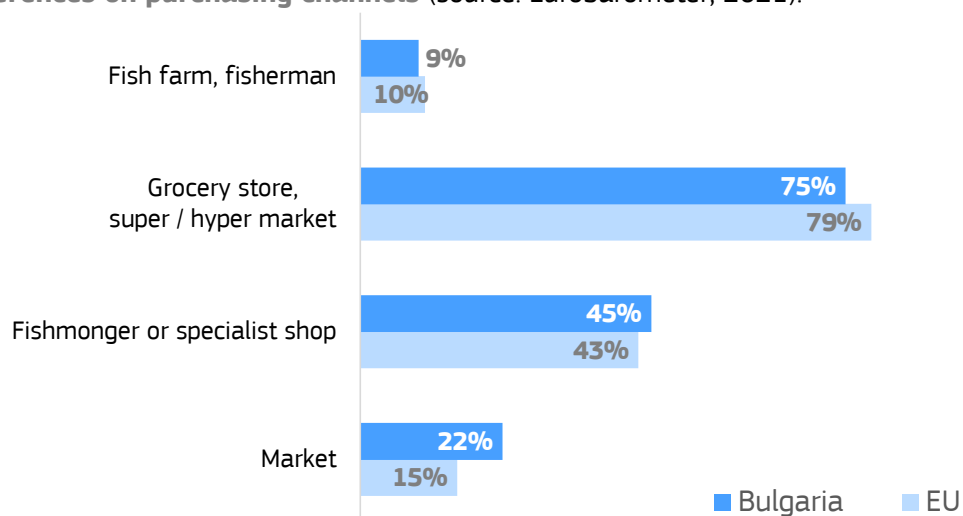
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DISTRIBUTION

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



Consumer preferences on purchasing channels (source: Eurobarometer, 2021):





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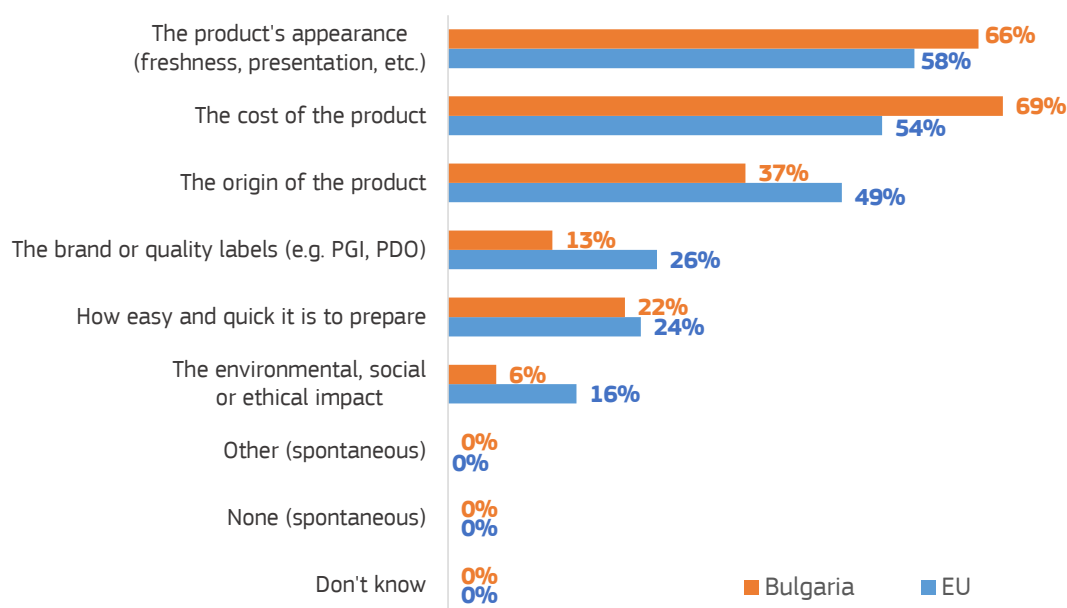
CONSUMPTION

In 2019, apparent consumption was estimated at 7,45 kg per capita, a considerable increase compared with 2018 (+6%). The most consumed species were mackerel, coldwater shrimps, carp, sprat and trout (source: EUMOFA).

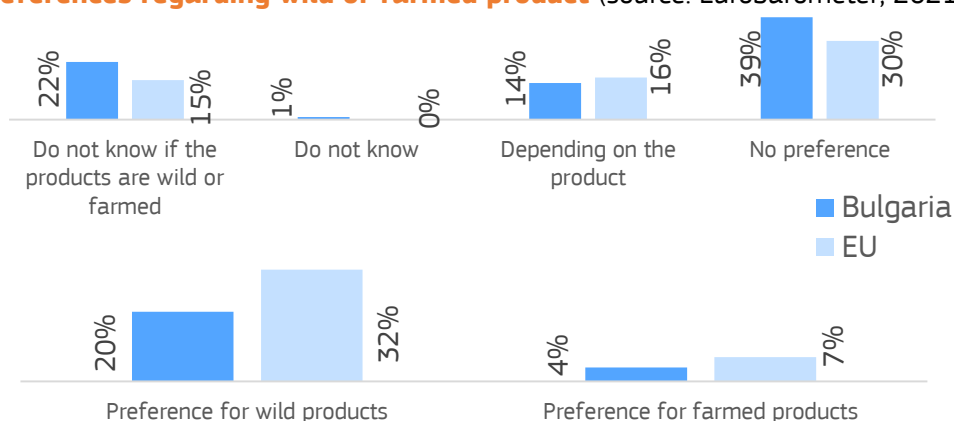
Regular consumers, namely those who eat fishery and aquaculture products at least once a month, mainly belong to the age groups 25-39 and 40-54. Young people (15-24) are less inclined to consume fish in Bulgaria, as well as at EU-28 level. In this category, regular consumers cover only 40% of the total, which is much lower than at EU level (67%, UK included). Bulgarians consume especially fresh and frozen products; loose fish (69%) is slightly more frequently consumed than at EU level (68%, UK included) (source: EUMOFA, "EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products", 2017).

7,45 kg
per capita in live
weight equivalent
(2019, source: EUMOFA)

Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2021)



Preferences regarding wild or farmed product (source: Eurobarometer, 2021)





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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 simple and advanced tables, 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 simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

FIRST SALES

Volumes and values are collected from the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture on a monthly basis, and cover all species sold in Bulgarian places of sale.

Data are accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility. Data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through a dedicated advanced table 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 simple and advanced tables, 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 simple tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

CONSUMPTION

No data available