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## BULGARIA IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2022, sources: Eurostat and FAO

Bulgaria is a minor EU producer of fishery products. As for aquaculture production, in 2022 it ranked 18<sup>th</sup> among EU-27 producing countries.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Bulgaria	% world	% EU-27
Catches	92.050	3.466	6	0,01%	0,2%
Aquaculture	130.885	1.089	9	0,01%	0,8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>222.936</b>	<b>4.554</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0,01%</b>	<b>0,3%</b>

## FISHING FLEET

Fleet: 2023, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat

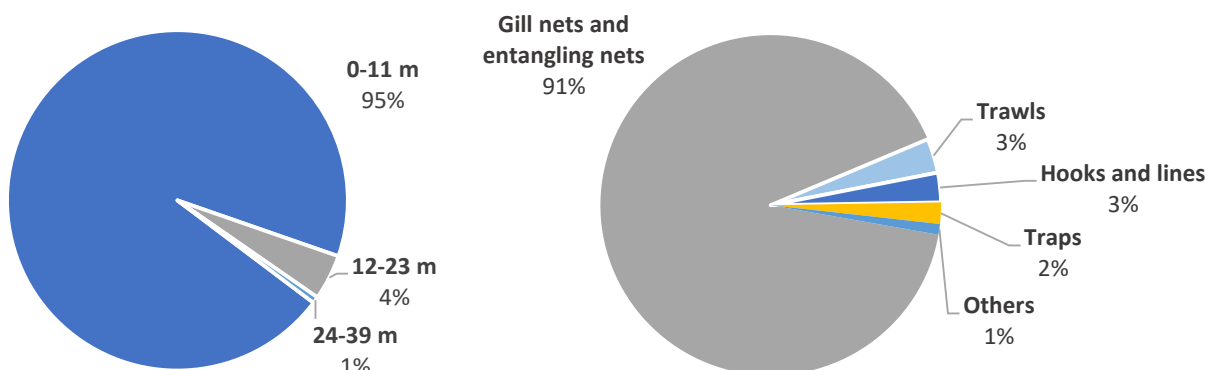
Employment: 2022, source: JRC

Vessels (2023)	Capacity (2023)	Power (2023)	
Number: 1.776	GT: 5.847	KW: 52.211	
TOTAL FTE: 623 (2022, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 70%	Jobs (FTE): 22%	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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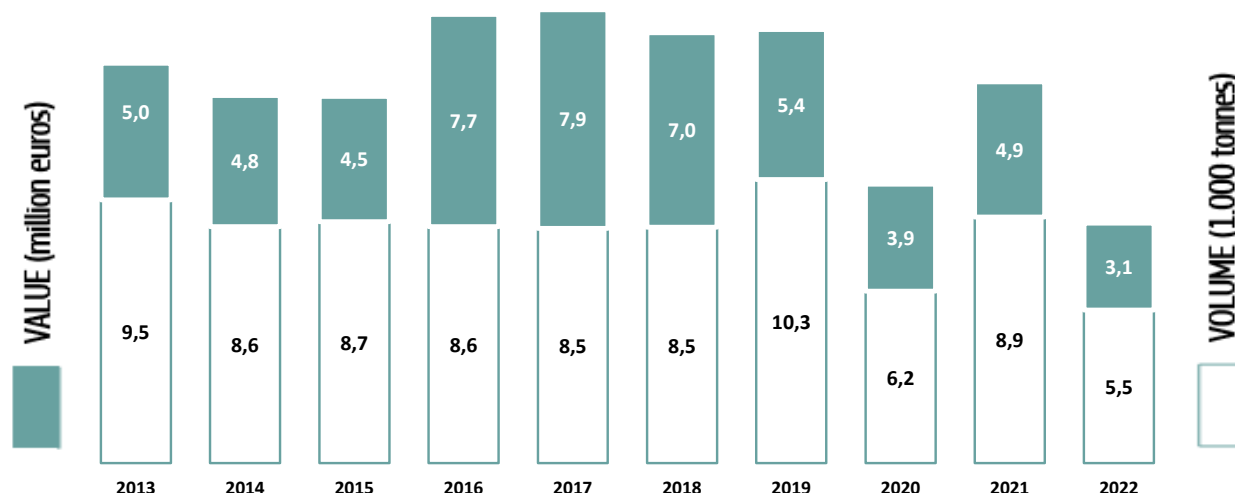
## LANDINGS

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.

Landings in Bulgaria are destined for human consumption only, and they entirely include fresh products. There are 75 fishing ports registered in the country (source: EU Master Data Register, 31 October 2024).

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



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

	Value (million euros)		Volume (1.000 tonnes)		
CLAM	1,05	21,61%	2,17	39,04%	THOMAS' RAPA WHELK
THOMAS' RAPA WHELK	0,87	18,05%	1,56	28,14%	SPRAT (= BRISLING)
SPRAT (= BRISLING)	0,70	14,49%	0,34	6,08%	CLAM
TURBOT	0,30	6,12%	0,22	4,05%	MUSSEL MYTILUS SPP.
RED MULLET	0,22	4,45%	0,18	3,26%	RED MULLET
OTHERS	1,71	35,28%	1,08	19,43%	OTHERS



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## AQUACULTURE

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and FAO data.

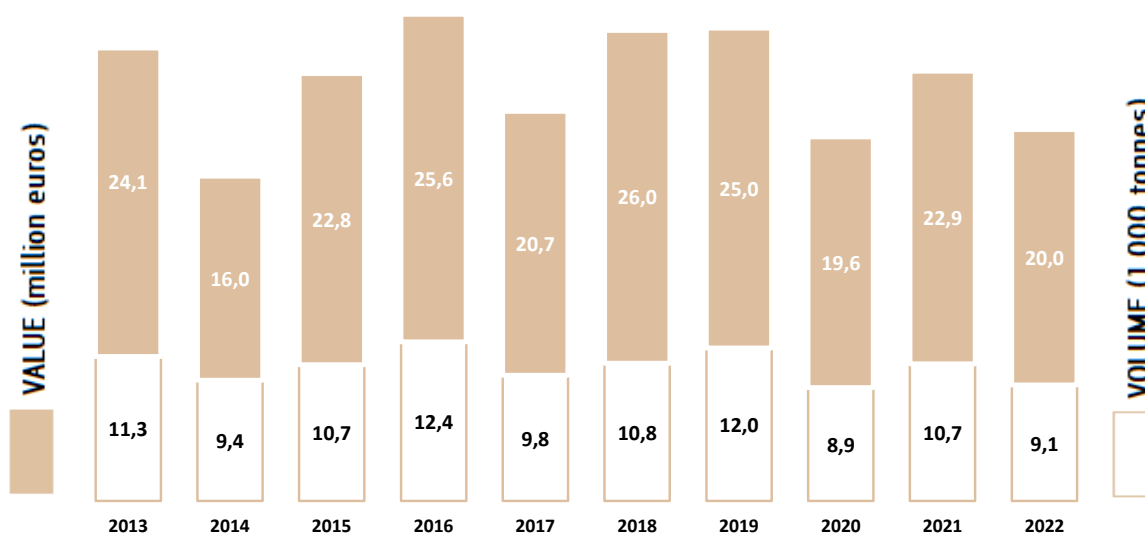
Aquaculture consists in the farming of aquatic (fresh or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Aquaculture data are reported in live weight equivalent and value.

In 2022, almost 84% of Bulgarian production occurred in freshwater and the rest in marine waters.

- According to Eurostat, in 2022 the following main production methods are used in the country:
- Around 16% of production: off bottom in brackish water;
- Around 5% of production: in tanks and raceways in freshwater;
- Around 3% of production: recirculation systems;
- Less than 1% of production: in ponds in freshwater;

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**  
2022, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes

Species	Value (million euros)	% of total	Volume (1,000 tonnes)	% of total
TROUT	16,4	53,47%	3,5	38,2%
CARP	8,7	28,46%	3,4	37,6%
FRESHWATER CATFISH	1,9	6,46%	1,4	15,7%
MUSSEL MYTILUS SPP.	1,5	4,90%	0,3	3,3%
OTHERS	2,4	6,71%	0,5	5,2%



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## PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Data as of 11-12-2024, source: DG MARE, [link](#)

In Bulgaria, **2 producer organisations (PO)** are formally recognized, operating in the fishery sector. 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.

## FIRST SALES

2024, 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 2024, total first sales in Bulgarian places of sale amounted to 3.174 tonnes and 2,4 million euros.



The top-3 places of sale covered 71% and 59% 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	1.377	860.453	Sprat (=brisling), red mullet, clam
Kavarna	632	342.282	Molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, red mullet, other marine fish
Varna	236	272.147	Red mullet, clam, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates



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

## PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 1.701 persons were employed in the Bulgarian fish processing industry in 2022. The sector recorded a value added of 20,8 million euros, covering 2% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2023, the main products sold were "Prepared or preserved mackerel, whole or in pieces (excluding minced products and prepared meals and dishes)" and "Fresh or chilled fish fillets and fish meat (including shark fins), whether or not minced" (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

**46 companies**

**Net turnover: 140,8 million euros**

(2023, source: Eurostat - SBS)

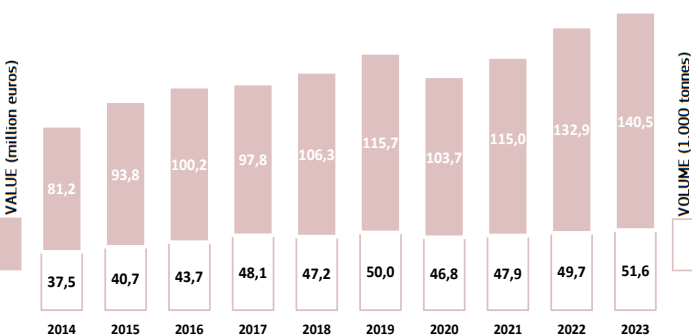


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## IMPORT – EXPORT

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

### IMPORT



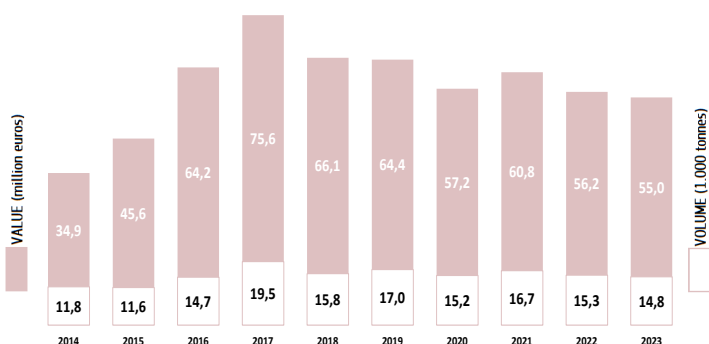
#### Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2023, million euros (nominal value)



SALMON	32	17%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY COLDWATER)	22	12%
MACKEREL	12	7%
GILTHEAD SEABREAM	11	6%
EUROPEAN SEABASS	7	4%
OTHERS	98	54%

### EXPORT



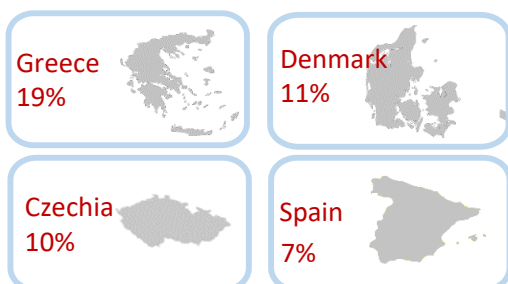
#### Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2023, million euros (nominal value)

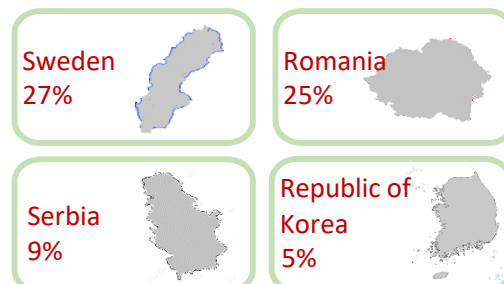


SHRIMPS (MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES)	21	23%
SALMON	10	11%
OTHER MOLLUSCS AND AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES	8	9%
CAVIAR, LIVERS AND ROES	7	8%
TROUT	6	6%
OTHERS	39	43%

#### Main countries of ORIGIN (in value, 2023)



#### Main countries of DESTINATION (in value, 2023)

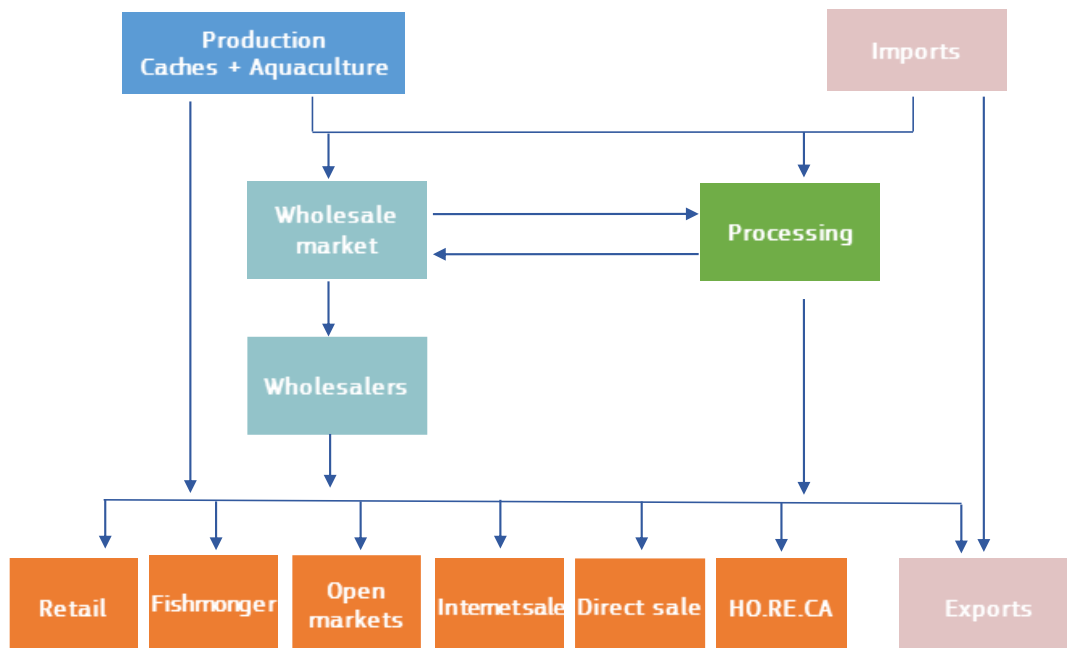




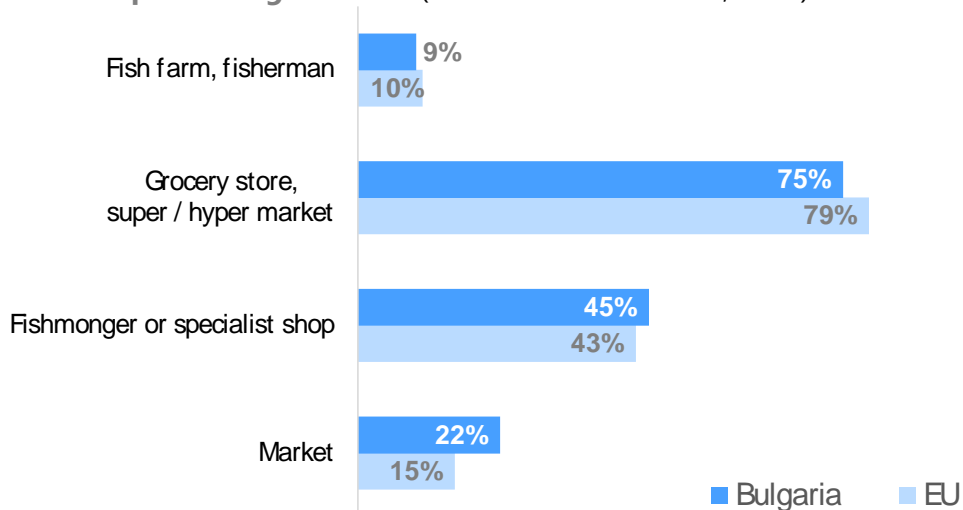
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## DISTRIBUTION

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



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





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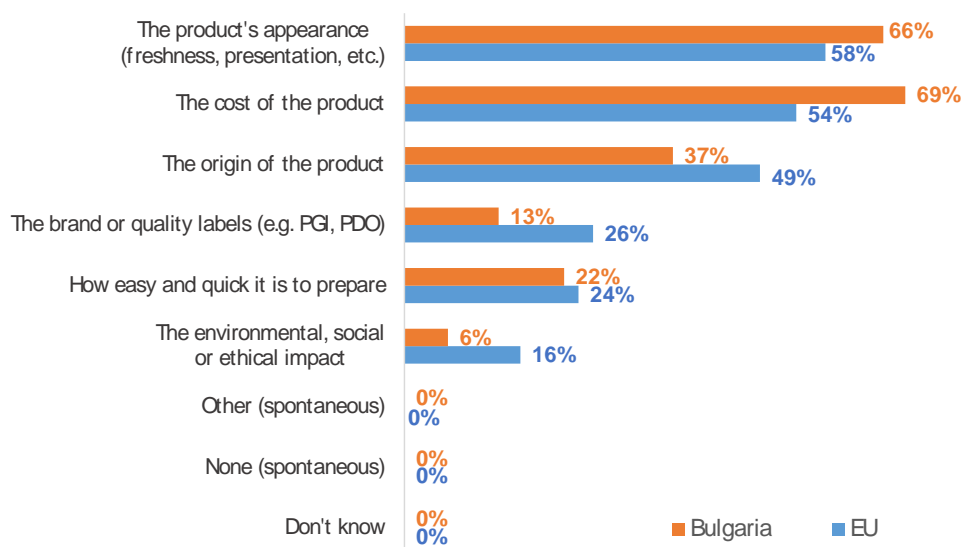
## CONSUMPTION

In 2022, apparent consumption was estimated at 7,28 kg per capita, a 2% increase compared with 2021. The most consumed species were mackerel, coldwater shrimps, carp, sprat and trout (source: EUMOFA).

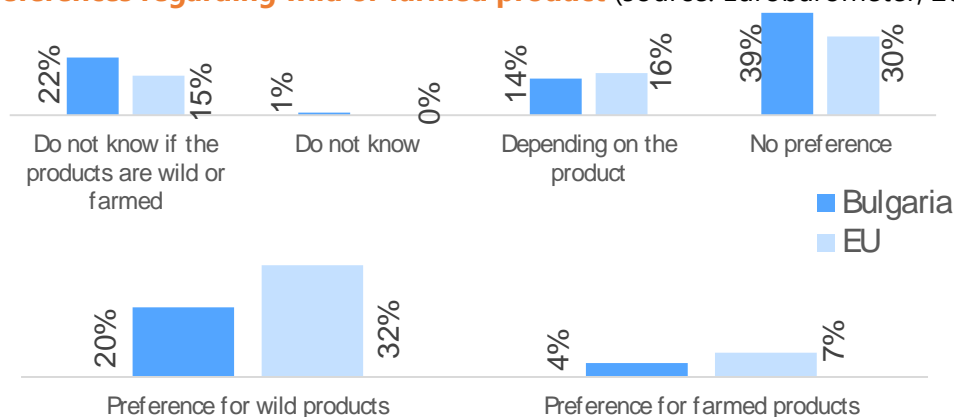
Regular consumers, namely those who eat fishery and aquaculture products at least once a month, mainly belong to the age groups 25-39 and 40-54. Young people (15-24) are less inclined to consume fish in Bulgaria, as well as at EU-28 level. In this category, regular consumers cover only 40% of the total, 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).

**7,28 kg**  
per capita in live  
weight equivalent  
(2022, 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.