



Last update: 30-01-2025

ESTONIA IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2022, sources: Eurostat and FAO

While it is a minor producing country in terms of aquaculture, in 2022 Estonia was the EU's 13th largest producer of fishery products.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Estonia	% world	% EU-27
Catches	92.050	3.466	74	0,080%	2,1%
Aquaculture	130.885	1.089	1	0,001%	0,1%
Total	222.936	4.554	75	0,033%	1,6%

FISHING FLEET

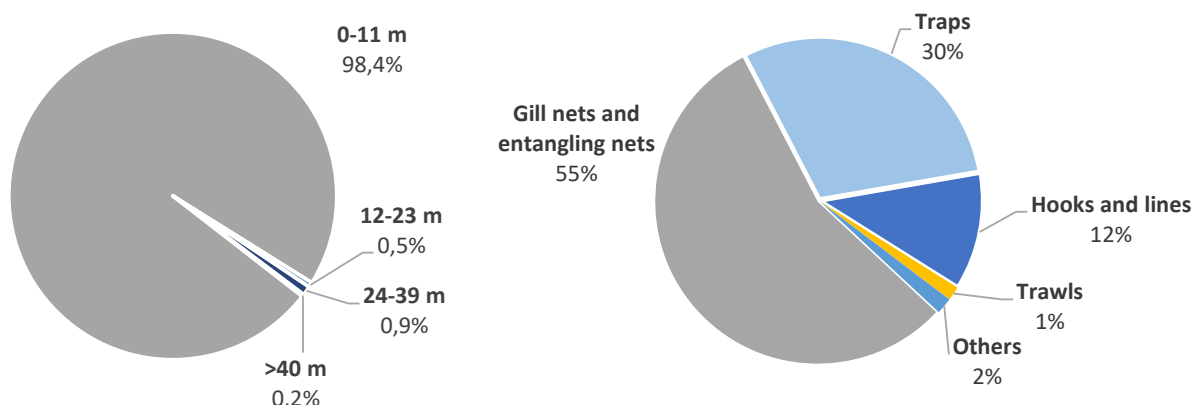
Fleet: 2023, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat Employment: 2022, source: JRC

Vessels (2023)	Capacity (2023)	Power (2023)	
Number: 2.022	GT: 15.952	KW: 48.601	
TOTAL FTE: 224 (2022, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 60%	Jobs (FTE): 0%	Jobs (FTE): 40%	Jobs (FTE): 0%

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

The Estonian fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)





LANDINGS

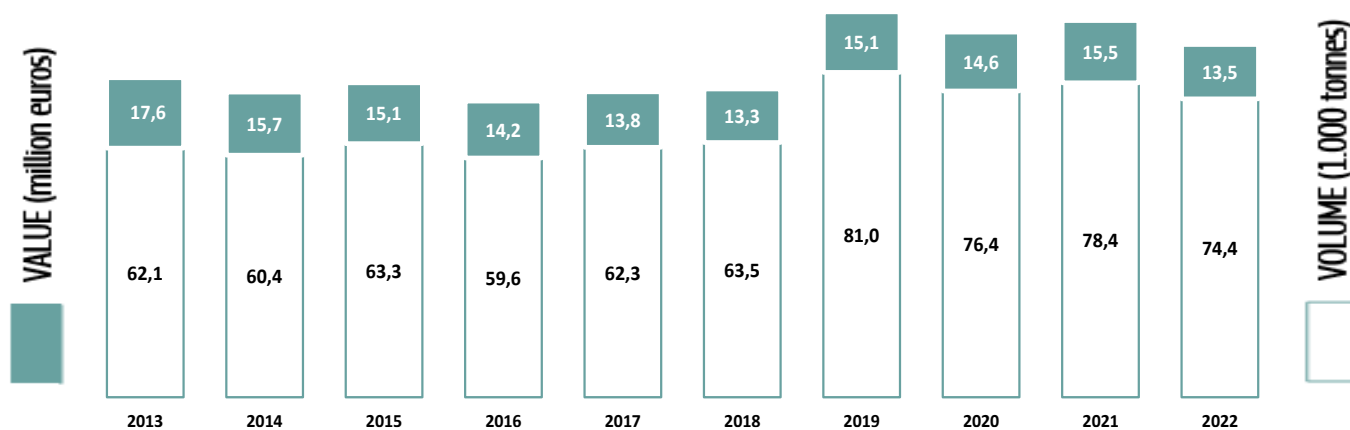
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data.

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 Estonia consist of fresh whole/gutted products only. In 2022, 72% of landings were destined for human consumption, the rest being used for industrial purposes.

There are 144 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



Species	Value (million euros)	% of total	Volume (1,000 tonnes)	% of total
SPRAT (= BRISLING)	7,9	42,5%	36,5	49,03%
HERRING	7,3	39,0%	35,0	47,02%
EUROPEAN PERCH	2,0	10,7%	0,8	1,02%
SMELT	0,4	2,3%	0,7	1,00%
EUROPEAN FLOUNDER	0,2	1,0%	0,4	0,51%
OTHERS	0,8	4,5%	0,5	1,42%



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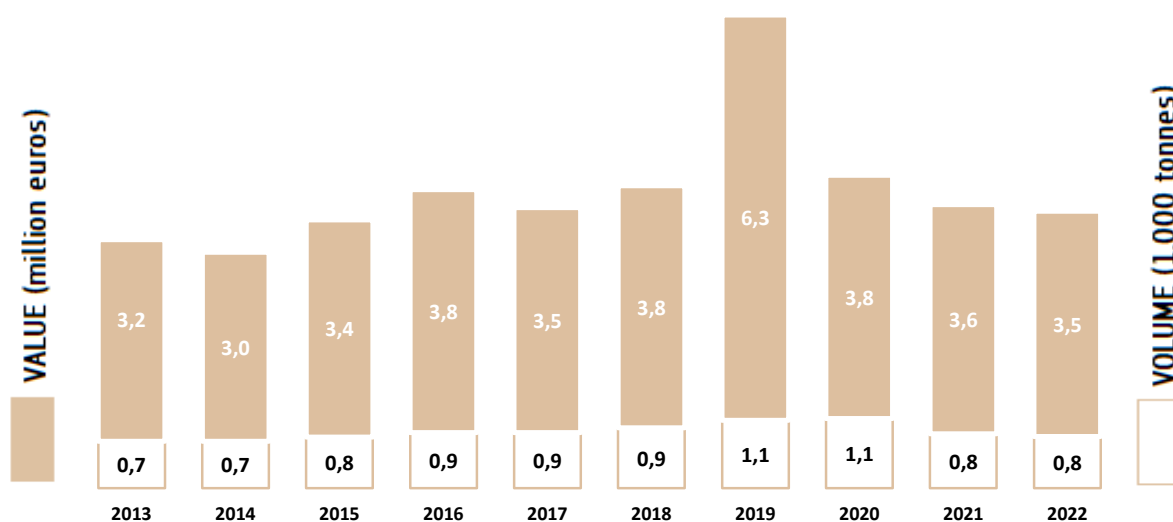
AQUACULTURE

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.

According to 2022 data available in Eurostat, in Estonia, aquaculture production is carried out both in sea and brackish water and in freshwater. Marine and brackish water aquaculture production is mainly carried out using cage methods and a small percentage in ponds, while freshwater aquaculture mainly uses tanks and raceways as production methods. However, no details are available more than half (55%) of the production.

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



TROUT	3,85	78%
CARP	0,07	1%
OTHERS	1,01	21%



TROUT	0,68	84%
CARP	0,02	2%
OTHERS	0,11	14%



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PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

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

In Estonia, **5 producer organisations (POs)** and **1 association 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 5 POs, 1 operates in aquaculture and 4 in the fishery sector. The association of POs operates in the fishery sector.

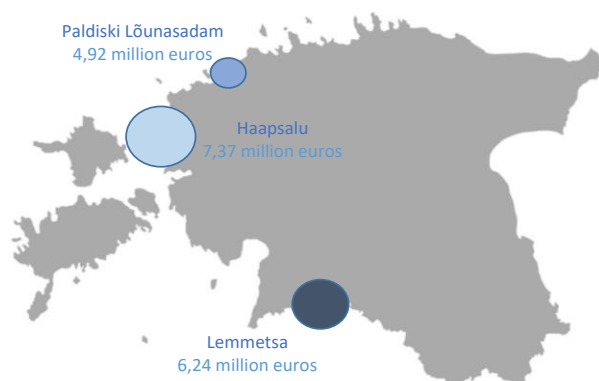
FIRST SALES

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.

There are no auction markets in Estonia. In 2024, total first sales in Estonian places of sale amounted to 65.123 tonnes and 32 million euros.

The top-3 places of sale covered 73% and 58% 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)
Haapsalu	21.495	7,37	Herring, sprat (=brisling), smelt
Lemmetsa	14.934	6,24	Sprat (=brisling), herring, smelt
Paldiski Lõunasadam	11.414	4,92	Herring, sprat (=brisling), smelt

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 1.265 persons were employed in the Estonian fish processing industry in 2022. The sector recorded a value added of 31,2 million euros, covering 8% of the value added of total manufacture of food products. In 2023, the main products sold were "Frozen whole salt water fish" and "Fish fillets in batter or breadcrumbs incl. fish fingers (excl. prepared meals and dishes)" (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

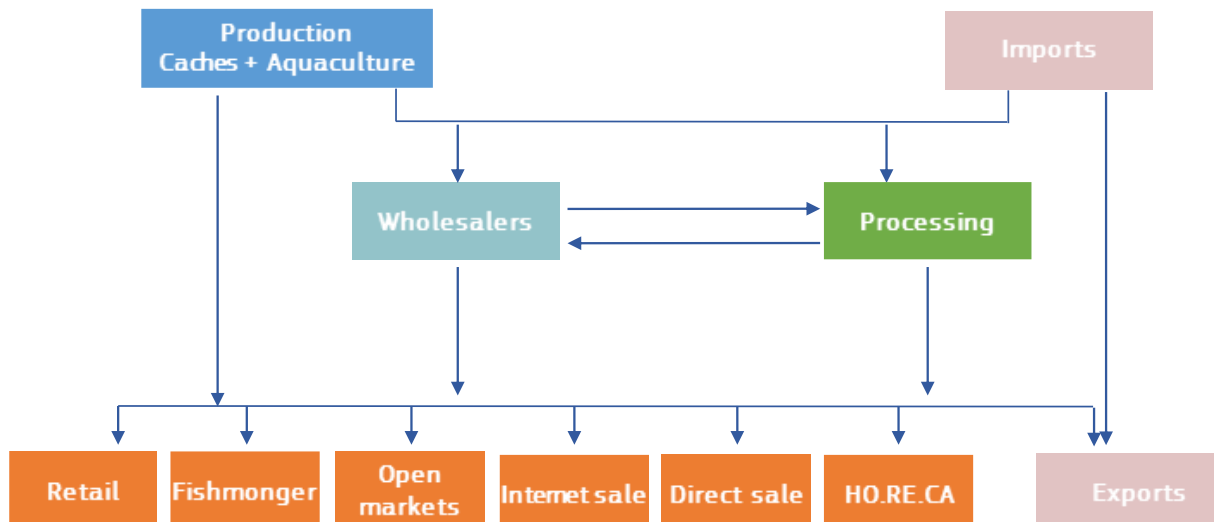
77 companies
Net turnover: 250,3 million euros
 (2023, source: Eurostat - SBS)



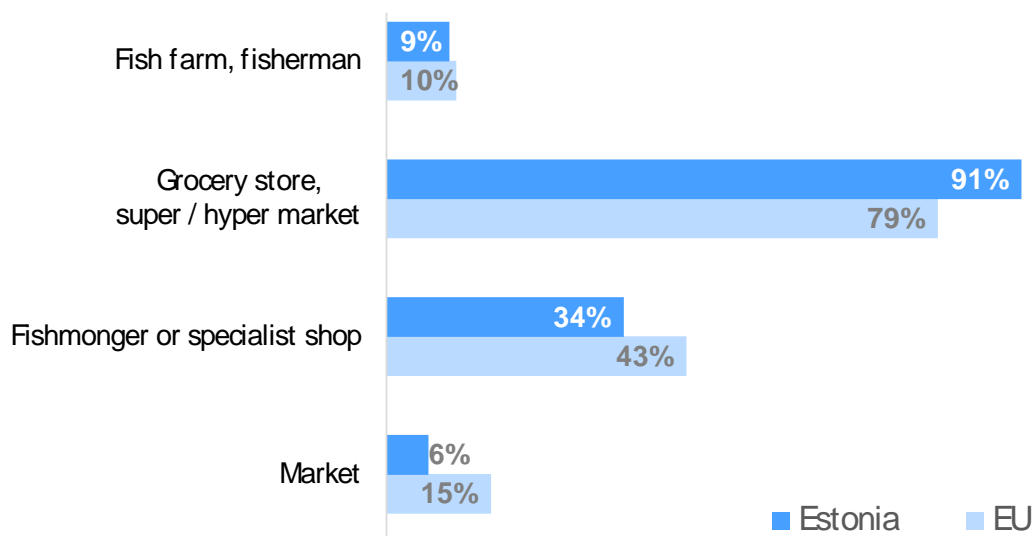
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DISTRIBUTION

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



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



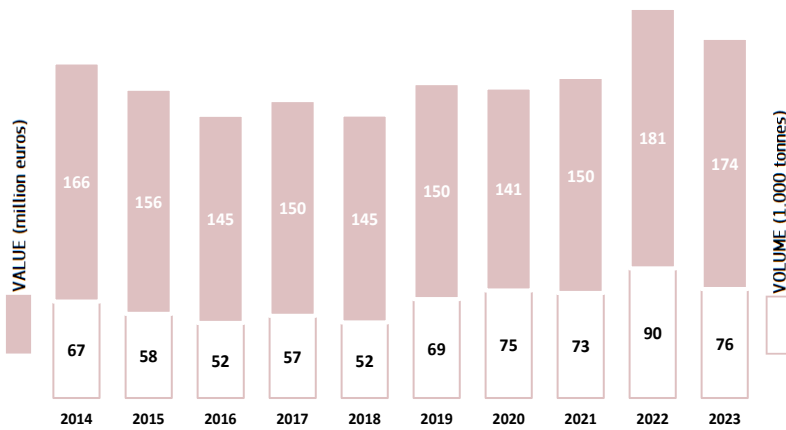


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IMPORT – EXPORT

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

IMPORT

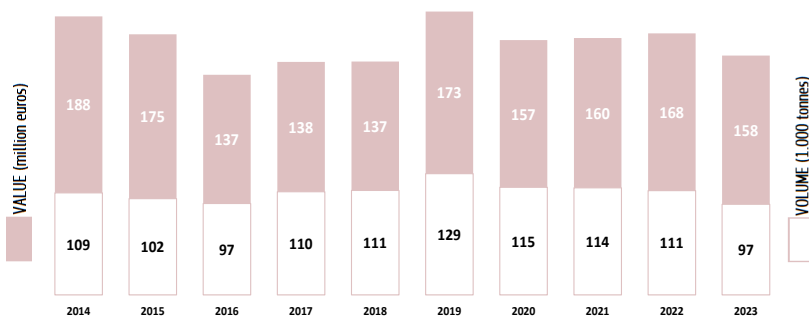


Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2023, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	59	26%
TROUT	27	12%
SHRIMPS (MAINLY MISCELLANEOUS)	27	12%
HERRING	18	8%
CAVIAR, LIVERS AND ROES	14	6%
OTHERS	81	36%

EXPORT

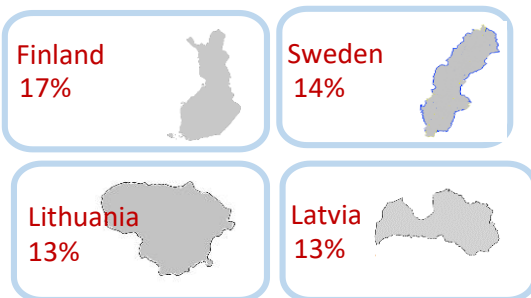


Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

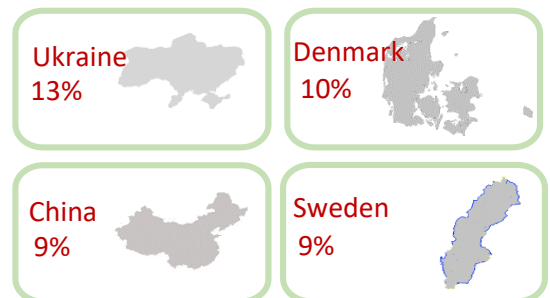
2023, million euros (nominal value)

SHRIMPS (MAINLY COLDWATER)	65	27%
FISHMEAL	17	7%
SALMON	17	7%
HERRING	17	7%
FISH OIL	16	7%
OTHERS	109	45%

Main countries of ORIGIN (in value, 2023)



Main countries of DESTINATION (in value, 2023)





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CONSUMPTION

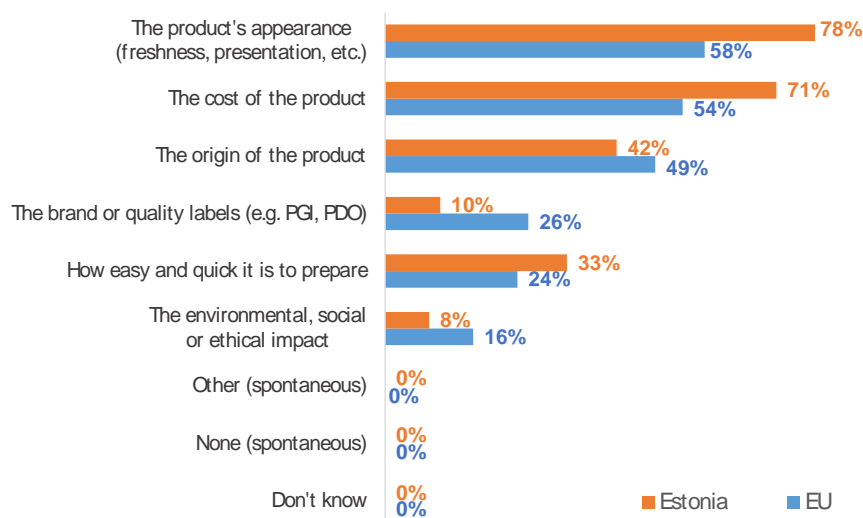
In 2022, apparent consumption was estimated at 17 kg per capita by the Estonian Institute of Economic Research, representing a significant 13% increase compared with 2021. The most consumed species were herring and trout (source: EUMOFA).

Regular consumers, namely those who eat fishery and aquaculture products at least once a month, mainly belong to age groups 25-39 and over 55. Young people (15-24) are less inclined to consume fish in Estonia, as well as at EU-28 level. However, regular consumers in this category cover 72% of the total, which is higher than at EU level (67%, UK included). Estonians consume especially fresh and smoked products, while loose fish (67%) is slightly less frequently consumed than the EU average (68%, UK included) (source: EUMOFA, "EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products", 2017).

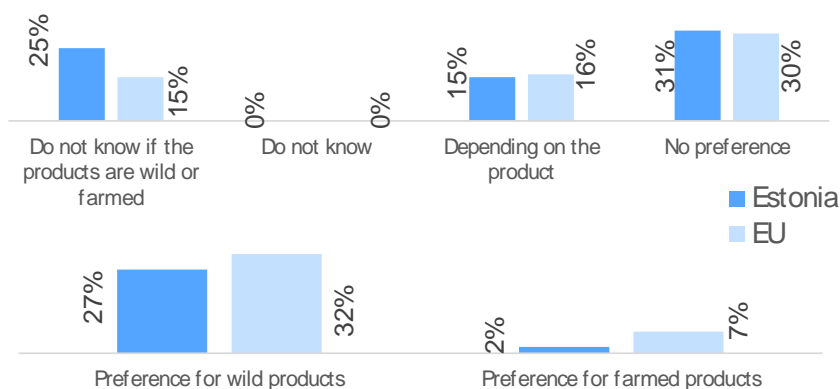
17 kg
per capita in live weight
equivalent

(2022, source: Estonian Institute of
Economic Research - EKI)

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 and integrated with Statistics Denmark.

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 Ministry of Rural Affairs of Estonia on a weekly and monthly basis.

Weekly data are monitored for a selection of 3 main commercial species and 12 places of sale.

Monthly data cover all species sold in Estonian places of sale.

Both weekly and monthly data are accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility. As for monthly first sales, data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through a dedicated advanced table and 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 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.

WHOLESALE

No data available

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.