



EUROPEAN SPRAT (*SPRATTUS SPRATTUS*)



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BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

- **Species description** ([Read more](#))

The European sprat belongs to the family of *Clupeidae*.

- **Geographical distribution and habitat** ([Read more](#))

European sprat is a small pelagic species found in the Northeast Atlantic, from North Sea and Baltic south to Morocco and in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Stock and resource status/conservation measures** ([Read more](#))

There is no minimum conservation size define in the conservation measures. Sprat stocks are managed through TAC (Total Allowable Catches) and quotas.

- **Production methods and fishing gears** ([Read more](#))

The main fishing gears used are gillnets and similar nets, seines and trawls.

Source: [Information system on commercial designations](#)

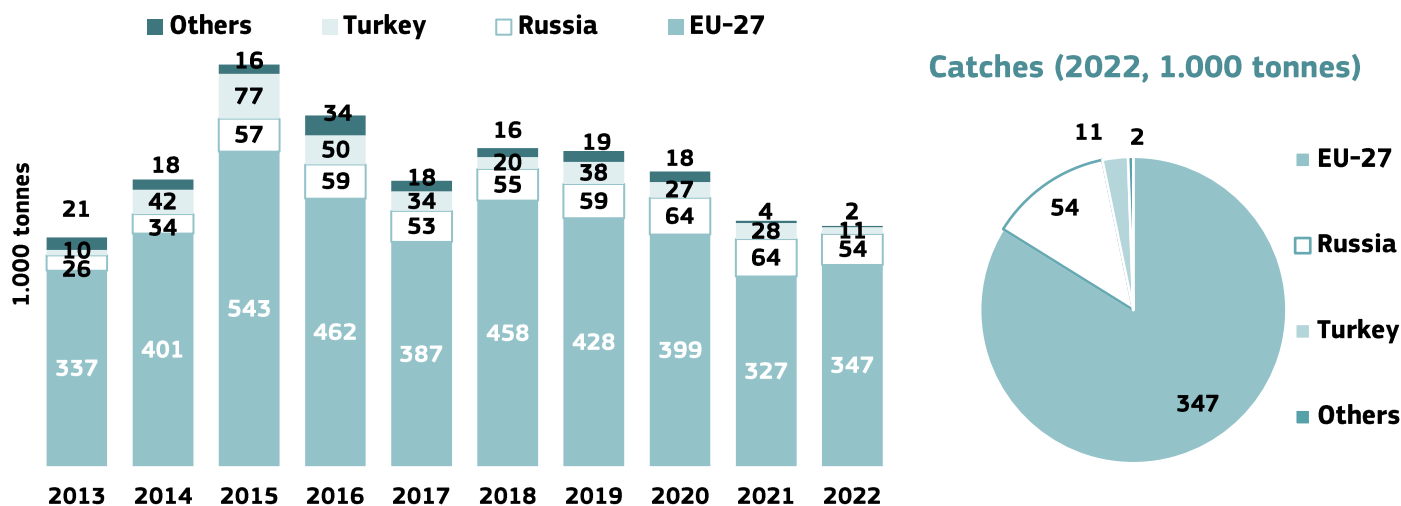
European sprat



CATCHES

Evolution of world catches

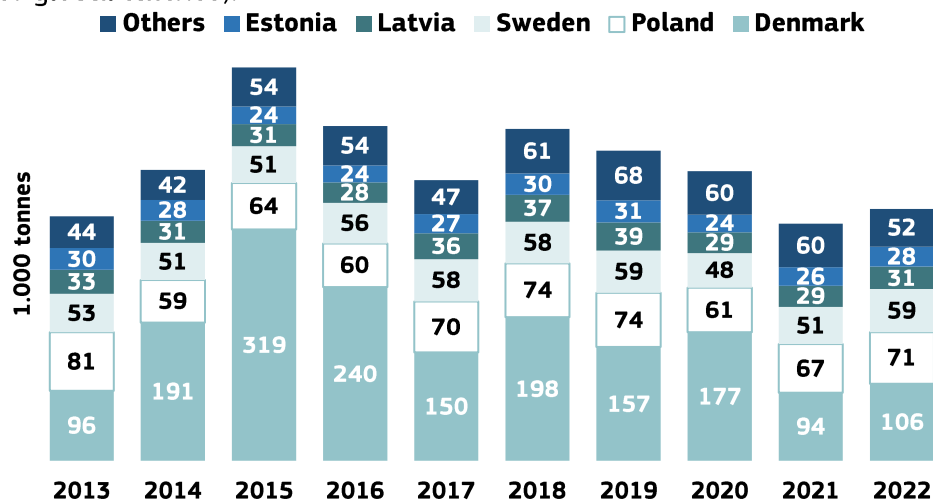
- European sprat catches reached 414.000 tonnes in 2022, i.e. **0,4%** of the global catches. The majority of this is caught by the EU fleet in the North Atlantic, as well as by Russia and Turkey. During the last decade (2013-2022), European sprat catches have increased by 5% at global level in relation to the increase of the Danish and Swedish captures (+10% and +12% respectively).



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches

- In 2022, the EU catches of European sprat reached circa 347.000 tonnes. The EU catches have fluctuated during the last decade with a peak at almost 543.000 tonnes in 2015, mainly due to the variations in TACs and quotas, especially for Denmark. Denmark is the first producer of European sprat with 31% of the European volume (26% of global catches), followed by Poland (20% of European catches and 17% of the world catches) and Sweden (17% of EU catches and 14% of global catches).



Source: FAO



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

- No aquaculture production of European sprat has been developed, as it would not be competitive (low sale prices).

PROCESSING

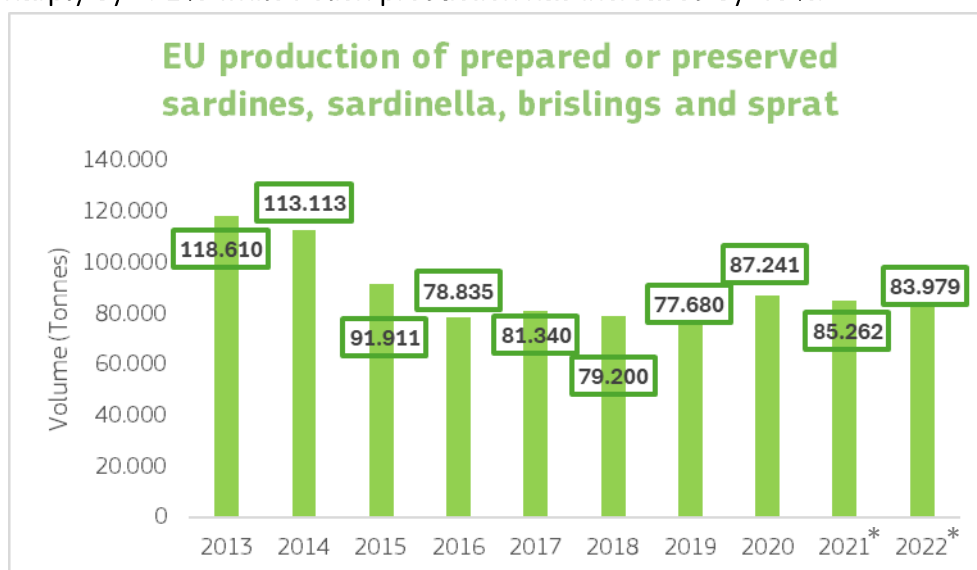
In PRODCOM database, the code concerning canned sprat also includes sardinellas and sardines but, depending on the producing country, it is possible to assume which species are included.

- There is one [PRODCOM](#) code referring to sprat:
 - 10 20 25 30: preserved or prepared sardines, sardinella, brisling and sprats

Canned sardines, sardinella, brisling and sparts

The EU production of canned sprat, sardines and sardinellas totaled 83.979 tonnes in 2022 (most recent data available for the whole EU). The EU production has decreased by 26% over the period between 2013 and 2022.

In 2022, the main producers of sprat were Poland (22%, assumed to be sprat) and Latvia (18%, also for sprat). Spain and Portugal also reported significant production of “canned sprat, sardines and sardinellas”, but in these countries it is assumed that the production consists only in sardines and sardinellas and not sprat. Over the 2013-2022 period, Latvian production has decreased sharply by -71% while Polish production has increased by 46%.



Source: EUROSTAT/PRODCOM

*) data for 2022 and 2021 was incomplete for France, Spain and Latvia. Values from the previous available year were used to estimate the EU production.



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TRADE

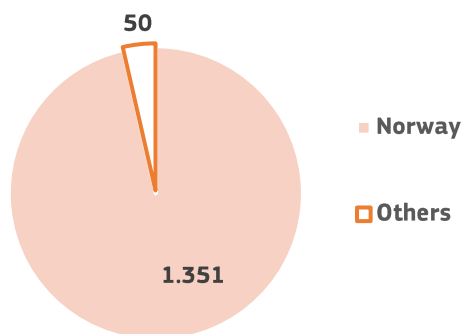
- [Combined nomenclature](#)

EU trade of sprat products (tonnes – 2023)

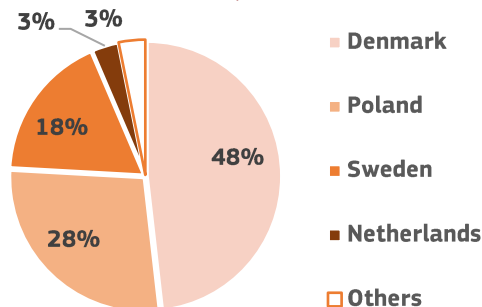
CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03024390	Fresh or chilled brisling or sprats "Sprattus sprattus"	849	5.966
03035390	Frozen brisling or sprats "Sprattus sprattus"	552	27.915
Total		1.402	33.881

- Extra-EU imports** reached over 1.400 tonnes in 2023, of which 61% were fresh. EU imports from Norway reached around 1.350 tonnes and represented 96% of total EU imports of sprat in volume terms in 2023. The main import markets in 2023 were Denmark and Poland, representing 76% of total imports volume. Sweden was another import market, accounting for 18% of the imported volume.

Main EU suppliers (2023, tonnes)



EU importers (2023, % in volume)



Source: EUMOFA

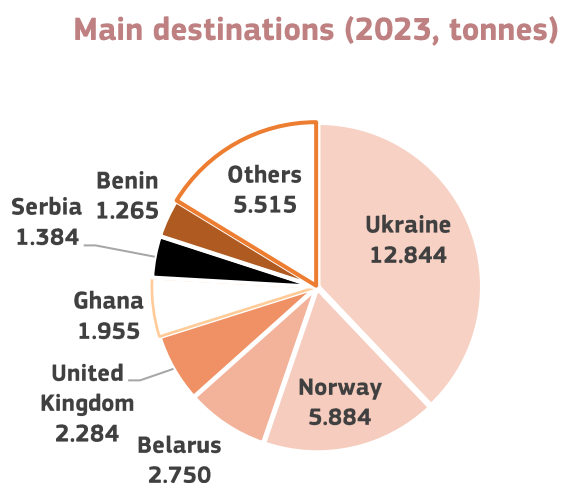
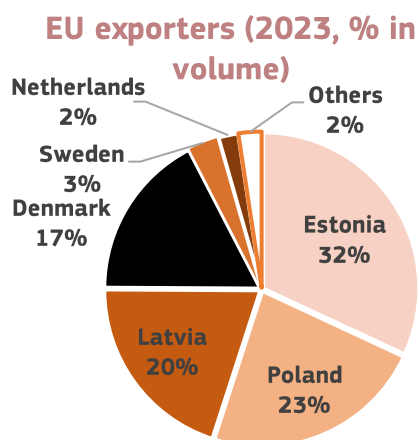
European sprat



TRADE

- Extra-EU exports:**

In 2023, volumes totaled over 33.880 tonnes. 82% of exports concerned frozen sprat and 32% of the EU-exports originated from Estonia. Other sprat exporters included Poland (23% of the volume exported), Latvia (20%) and Denmark (17%). In 2023, Ukraine, Norway and Belarus were the main markets for EU exports, accounting for 63% of total volume.



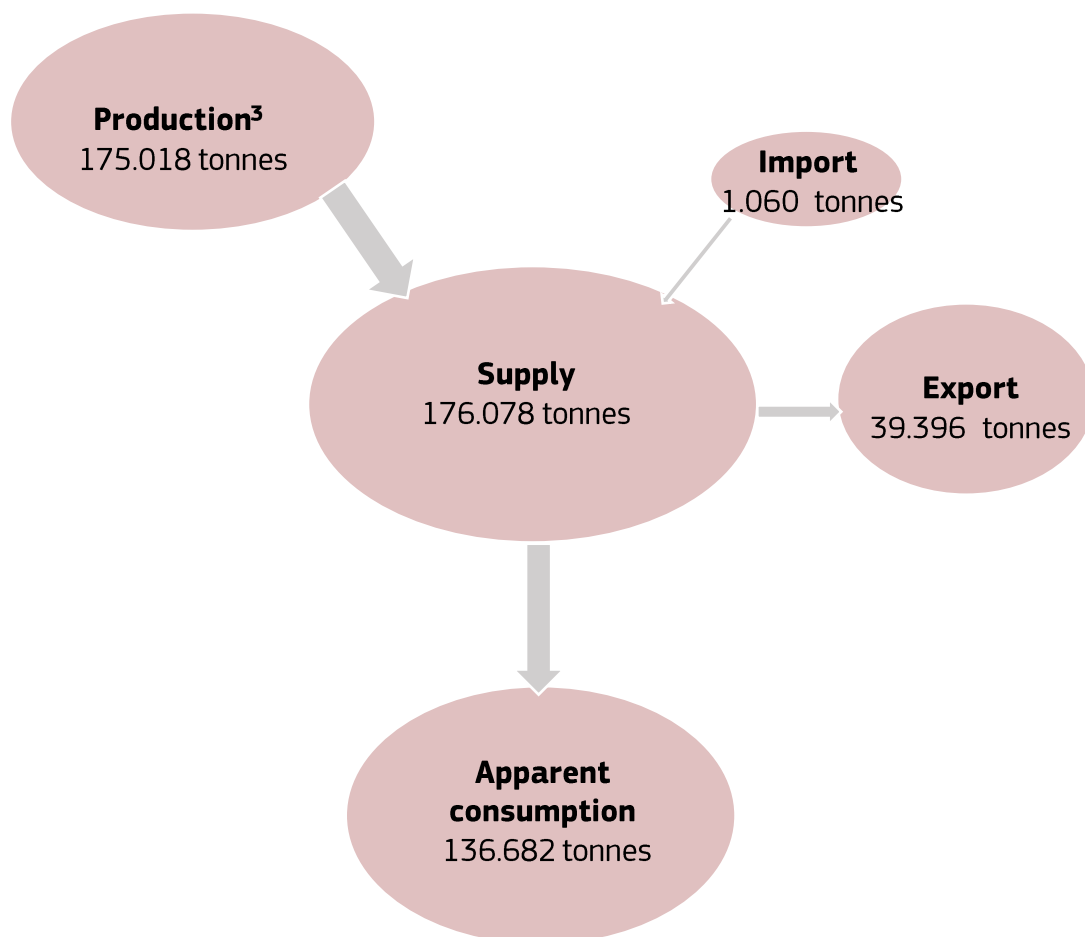
Source: EUMOFA



European sprat

Supply balance

EU supply balance (2022¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Sprat



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ Supply balance is provided for the year 2022 (trade data for 2022 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slides 4 and 5 concern the year 2023.

² The [conversion factors](#) were used to convert net weight of imports and exports of fishery and aquaculture products into live weight equivalents.

³ Production figure used in this supply chain is different from the production figure provided in the slide on catches (i.e. slide 2) as only production for human consumption has been considered.



European sprat

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale

First-sale prices are provided for the main EU producers, Denmark, Poland, and Sweden.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Denmark, fresh	0,25	0,32	0,22	0,13	0,38	0,23	0,37	0,29	0,39	n.a.	EUMOFA
Poland, fresh	n.a.	0,21	0,18	0,17	0,17	0,19	0,20	0,22	0,34	0,42	EUMOFA
Sweden, fresh	0,02	0,02	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,61	0,79	0,44	0,66	0,50	EUMOFA
Sweden, frozen	0,02	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,21	0,16	0,30	0,36	n.a.	EUMOFA

(*) From January to November 2024

Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are reported for Rungis (France).

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
France, "Sprat fumé"	5,3	5,3	5,3	5,3	5,3	5,3	5,3	5,68	6,5	6,5	Rungis (RNM)

(*) From January to October 2024

Retail/consumption

Retail prices are reported for Latvia.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Latvia	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,53	1,62	1,71	1,77	2,09	2,68	EUMOFA

(*) last year available



European sprat

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Import (frozen whole)

EU imports from third countries concern mainly frozen sprat, prices are given for the main importers within EU in 2023 (Poland and Denmark).

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Poland	0,92	1,15	1,13	0,84	1,08	0,97	1,12	1,36	1,42	1,40	EUMOFA
Denmark	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0,33	0,65	1,87	1,40	1,46	1,20	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2024

Export (frozen whole)

Estonia is the main EU exporter of sprat, followed by Latvia and Poland. EU exports are mainly composed of frozen whole sprat.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Estonia	0,38	0,41	0,39	0,37	0,36	0,47	0,57	0,65	0,72	0,82	EUMOFA
Latvia	0,48	0,36	0,34	0,37	0,38	0,55	0,54	0,64	0,84	1,01	EUMOFA
Poland	0,52	0,49	0,48	0,48	0,5	0,56	0,57	0,69	0,82	1,04	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2024



European sprat

MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#))
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more](#))
- Applicable marketing standard ([Read more](#))

CONSUMPTION

- Apparent consumption per capita of sprat (all species included) in 2022: **0,31 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [Supply balance – 2022](#), EUMOFA).
- Nutritional value (European sprat, nutrition values per serving 100g) ([Read more](#))

Nutrition values	Sprat
Energy (kcal)	172
Total fat (g)	11
Saturates (g)	-
Carbohydrate (g)	0
Sugars (g)	0
Protein (g)	18,30
Salt (mg)	-