



Last update: 10-02-2023

IRELAND IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2020, sources: Ireland's Seafood Development Agency (BIM)¹, Eurostat and FAO

In 2020, Ireland ranked 9th in the EU-27 in terms of fishery production and 8th in terms of aquaculture production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Ireland	% world	% EU-27
Catches	91.260	3.869	157	0,17%	4%
Aquaculture	122.573	1.088	38	0,03%	3%
Total	213.833	4.957	195	0,09%	4%

FISHING FLEET

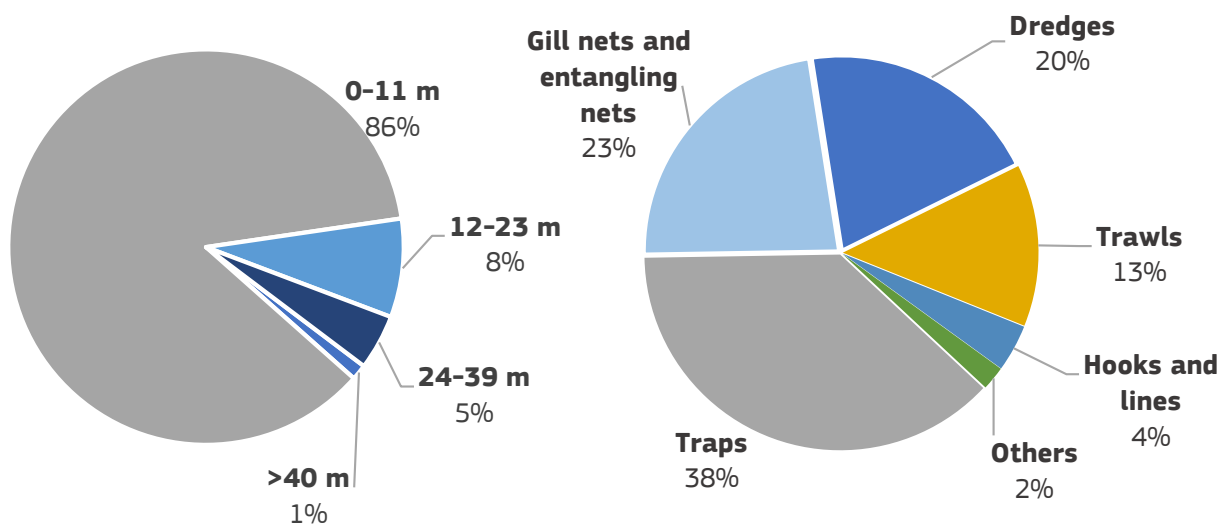
Fleet: 2021, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat Employment: 2020, source: JRC

Vessels (2021)	Capacity (2021)	Power (2021)	
Number: 2.032	GT: 66.862	KW: 191.206	
TOTAL FTE: 2.684 (2020, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 49%	Jobs (FTE): 23%	Jobs (FTE): 19%	Jobs (FTE): 9%

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

The Irish fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)



¹ The 2020 aquaculture data were collected from the BIM report "2020: the business of seafood. A Snapshot of Ireland's Seafood Sector".



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LANDINGS

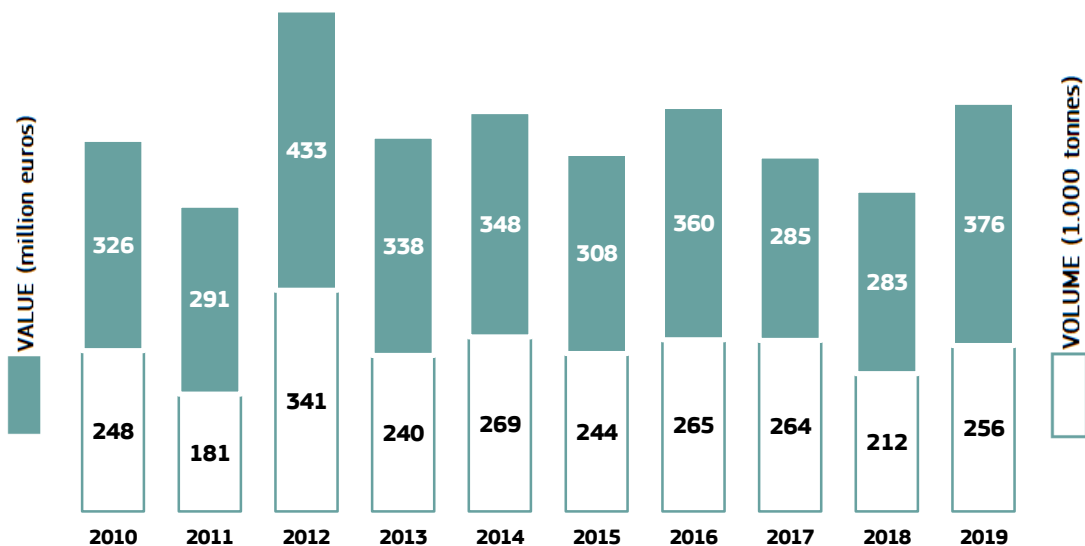
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and SFP data.

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 2020, Irish landings include almost entirely fresh whole/gutted products, although no detail is available for the destination use.

There are 178 fishing ports registered in Ireland (source: EU Master Data Register, 13 June 2022).

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



Main commercial species landed and % of total

2020, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



Species	Value (million euros)	% of total	Volume (1,000 tonnes)	% of total
MACKEREL	103	22%	88	28%
HAKE	64	14%	79	25%
NORWAY LOBSTER	48	10%	18	6%
MONK	47	10%	17	6%
BLUE WHITING	33	7%	15	5%
OTHERS	168	37%	99	30%

BLUE WHITING

MACKEREL

HAKE

HORSE MACKEREL (OTHER THAN HORSE MACKEREL)

SPRAT (= BRISLING)

OTHERS



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AQUACULTURE

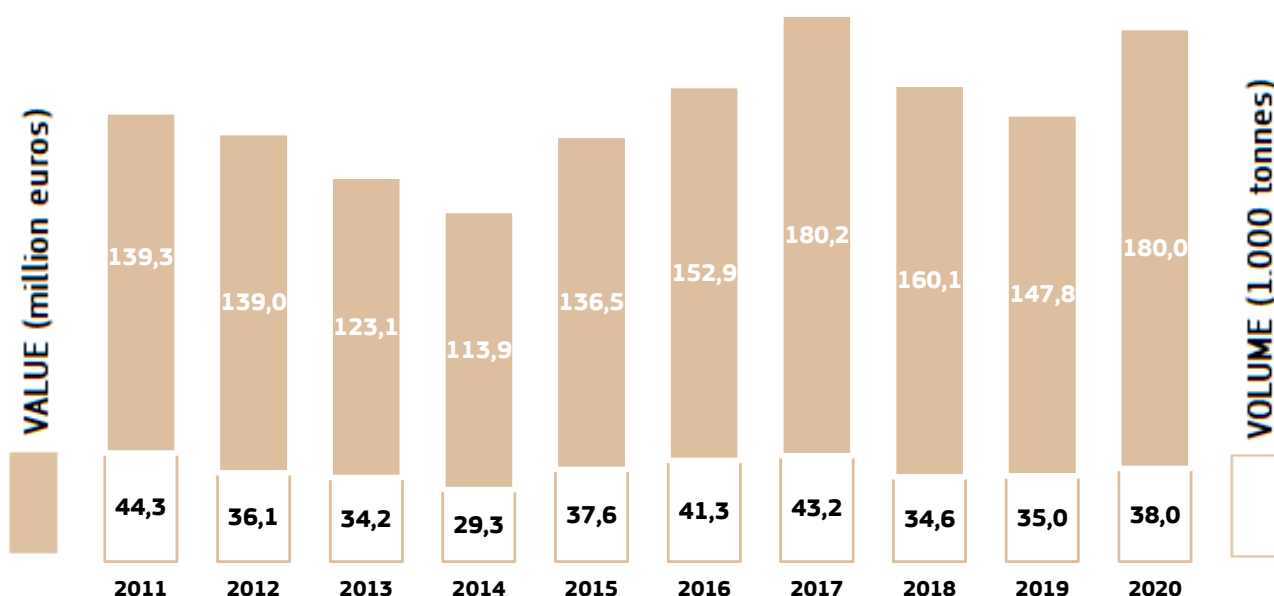
Sources: Ireland's Seafood Development Agency (BIM) for 2020, Eurostat and FAO.

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 2020, 98% of Irish production occurred in sea and brackish water and a small portion in freshwater. The following main production methods were used:

- 49% of production: off bottom in sea brackish water;
- 37% of production: in cages in sea and brackish water;
- 13% of production: on bottom in sea and brackish water;
- 2% of production: using ponds in freshwater.

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



Main commercial species farmed and % of total
2020, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes



SALMON	127	70%
OYSTER	37	20%
MUSSEL.	13	8%
OTHERS	3	2%



14,7	39%	MUSSEL
13,4	35%	SALMON
9,0	24%	OYSTER
0,9	2%	OTHERS



PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Data as of 10-11-2022, source: DG MARE, [link](#)

In Ireland, **6 producer organisations (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 6 POs, 4 operate in the fishery sector, 1 operates in aquaculture and 1 in both the fishery and aquaculture sectors.

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.

There are no structured wholesale markets in Ireland, but a number of companies operate as wholesale distributors. Due to consolidation during the last few years, approximately 80% of the market is now controlled by six wholesalers. The wholesale distributors buy products both from fisheries and aquaculture, but the major bulk of their products is imported. Source: Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 2371 persons were employed in the Irish fish processing industry in 2020. The sector recorded a value added of 144,2 million euros.

In 2021, the main products sold were "Frozen whole salt water fish" and "Crustaceans frozen, dried, salted or in brine" (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

107 companies

Sales: 483,1 million euros

(2020, source: Eurostat - SBS)



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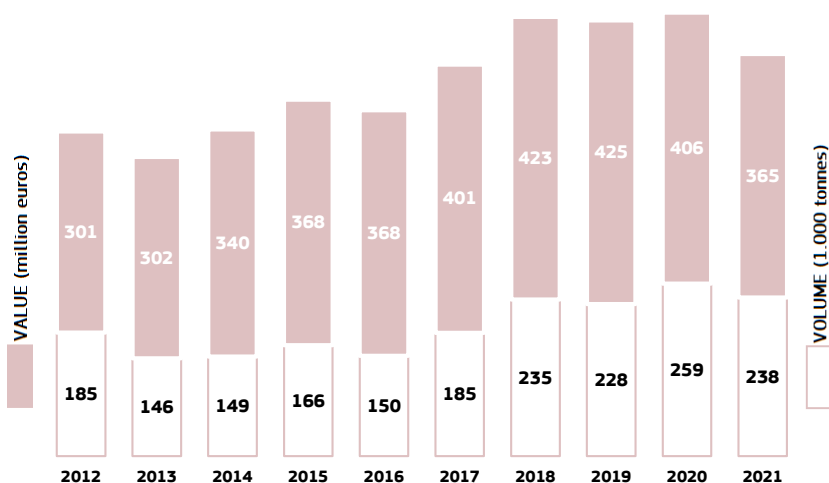
IMPORT – EXPORT

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

2021, million euros (nominal value)

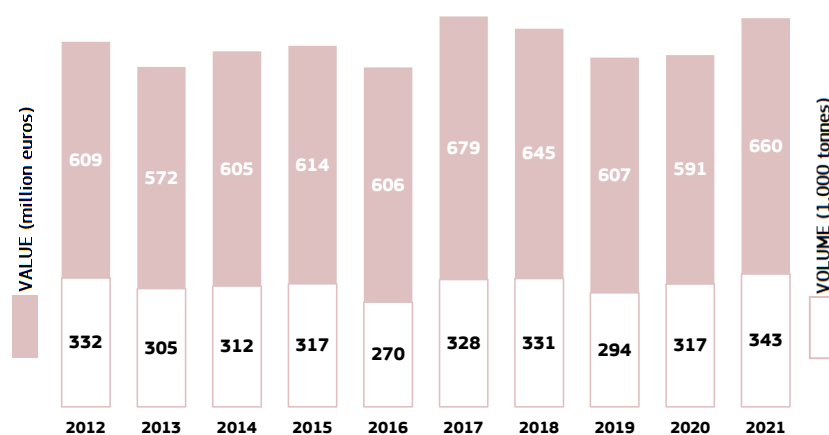


SALMON	81	21%
COD	39	10%
MISCELLANEOUS SHRIMPS	24	6%
WARMWATER SHRIMPS	20	5%
SKIPJACK TUNA	19	5%
OTHERS	208	53%

EXPORT

Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2021, million euros (nominal value)



SALMON	128	19%
MACKEREL	109	16%
NORWAY LOBSTER	60	9%
CRAB	45	6%
OYSTER	35	5%
OTHERS	693	46%

Main countries of **ORIGIN**
(in value, 2021)

United Kingdom
25%

Denmark
8%

Netherlands
13%

Sweden
7%



Main countries of **DESTINATION**
(in value, 2021)

France
23%

United Kingdom
14%

Spain
9%

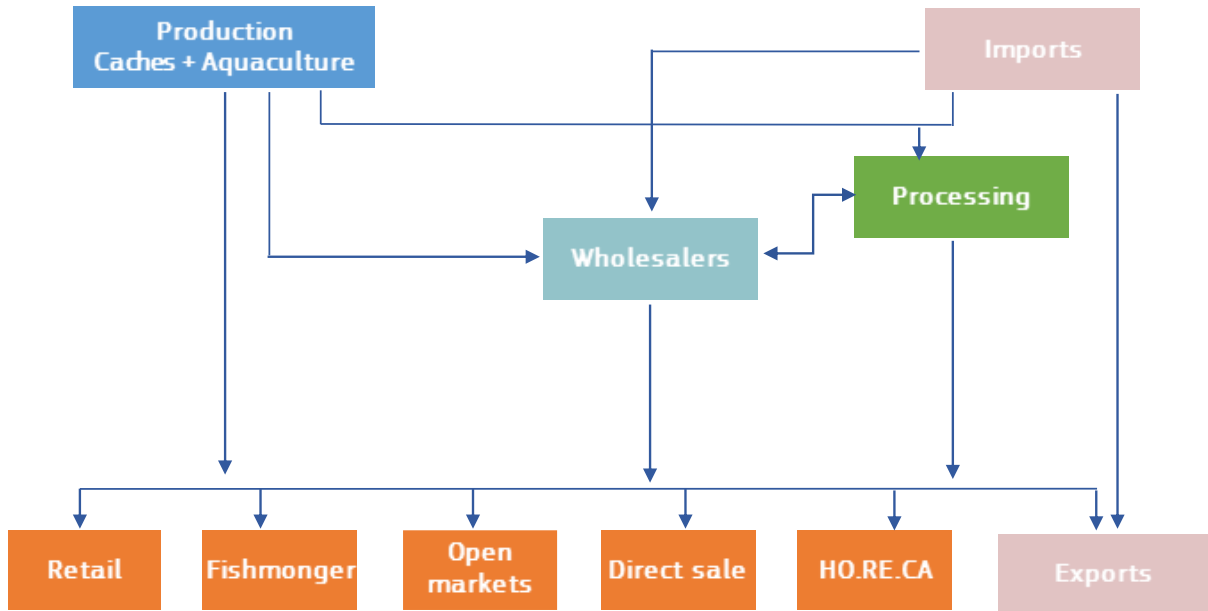
Italy
8%



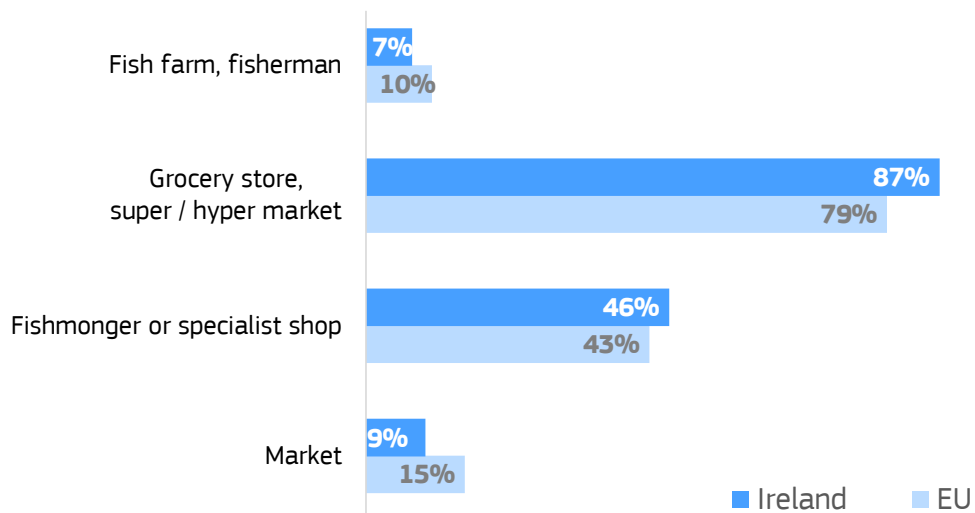
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DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in Ireland (source: Bord Iascaigh Mhara):



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





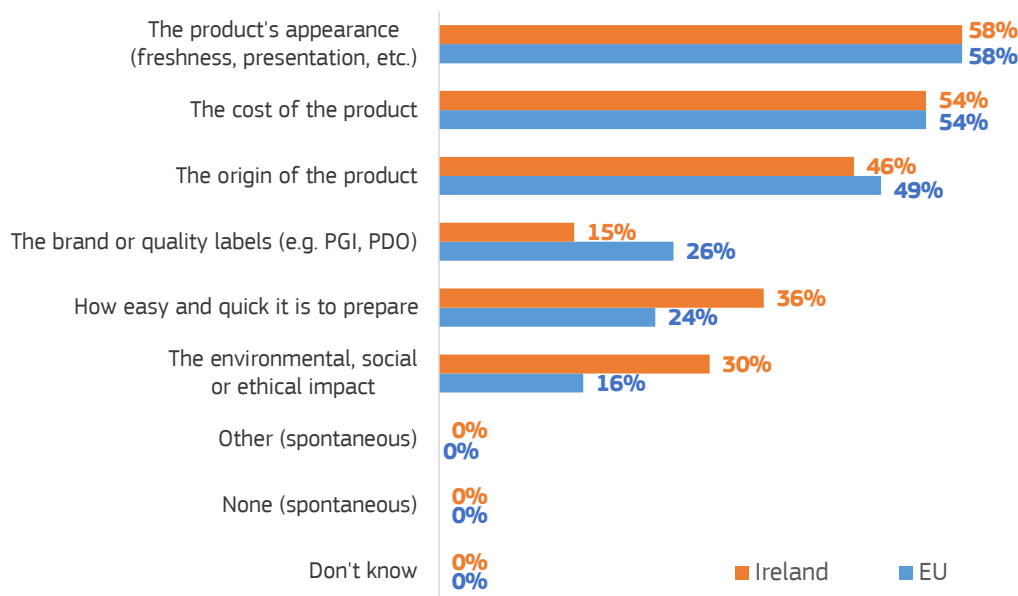
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CONSUMPTION

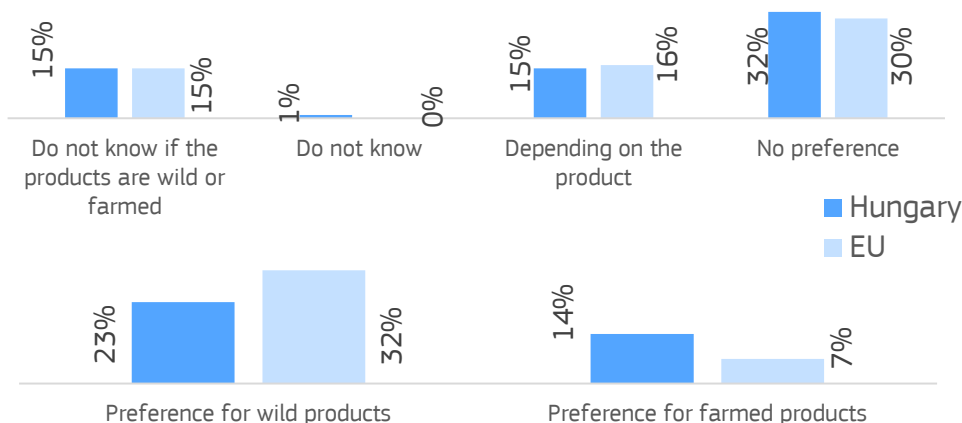
In 2020, apparent consumption was estimated at 21,22 kg per capita, with a consistent -26% drop compared with 2019. The most consumed species were mackerel, horse mackerel, cod, herring and salmon (source: EUMOFA). Regular consumers, namely those who eat fishery and aquaculture products at least once a month, mainly belong to age groups 40-54 and over 55. Young people (15-24) are less inclined to eat fish frequently in Ireland, as well as at EU-28 level. In this category, regular consumers cover 54% of the total, which is much lower than at EU level (67%, UK included). Irish consume especially fresh and smoked, salted or dried products; loose fish (73%) is more frequently consumed than at EU level (68%, UK included) (source: EUMOFA, "EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products", 2017).

21,22 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 and integrated with SFPa 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

No data available

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

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

Volumes and values of household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products are collected from Europanel based on panel reporting. Data are monitored for 7 main commercial species + the item “Others”, aggregating all other species (click [here](#) for the full list).

Data are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through simple tables and the bulk download facility. Moreover, average weekly prices are accessible through simple and advanced tables, and through the bulk download facility.