



EUROPEAN SPRAT (*SPRATTUS SPRATTUS*)



© Scandinavian Fishing Year Book

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.

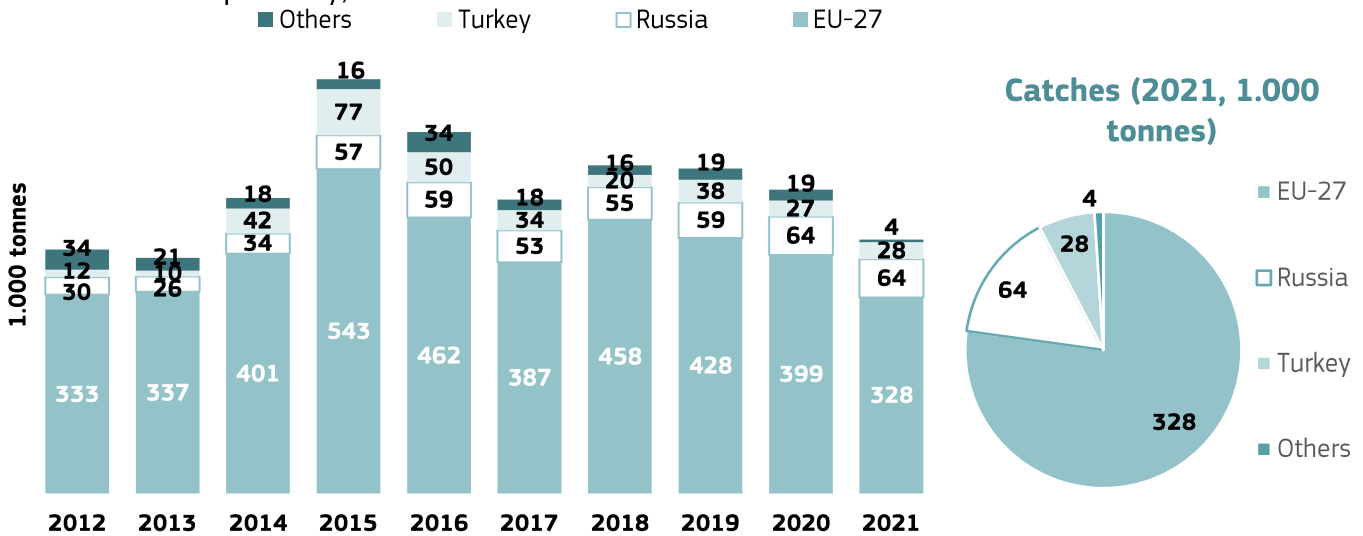
Source: [Information system on commercial designations](#)



CATCHES

Evolution of world catches

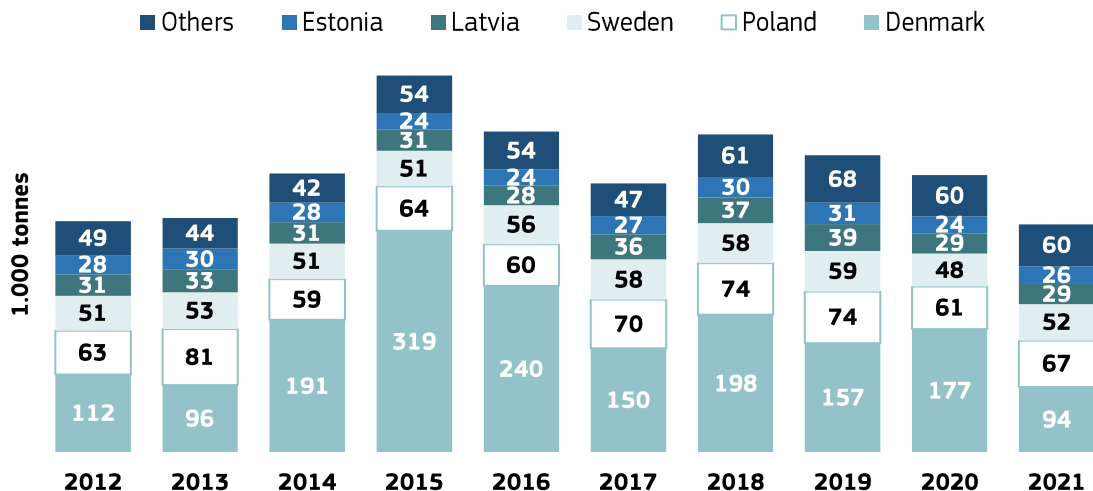
- European sprat catches reached almost 425.000 tonnes in 2021, i.e. **0,5%** of the global catches. The majority of this is caught by the EU fleet in the North Atlantic, as well as by Russia and the Turkey. During the last decade (2012-2021), European sprat catches have increased by 4% at global level in relation to the increase of the Chinese and Turkish captures (+118% and +132% respectively).



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches

- In 2021, the EU catches of European sprat reached circa 328.000 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 29% of the European volume (22% of global catches), followed by Poland (20% of European catches and 16% of the world catches).



Source: FAO



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

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

PROCESSING

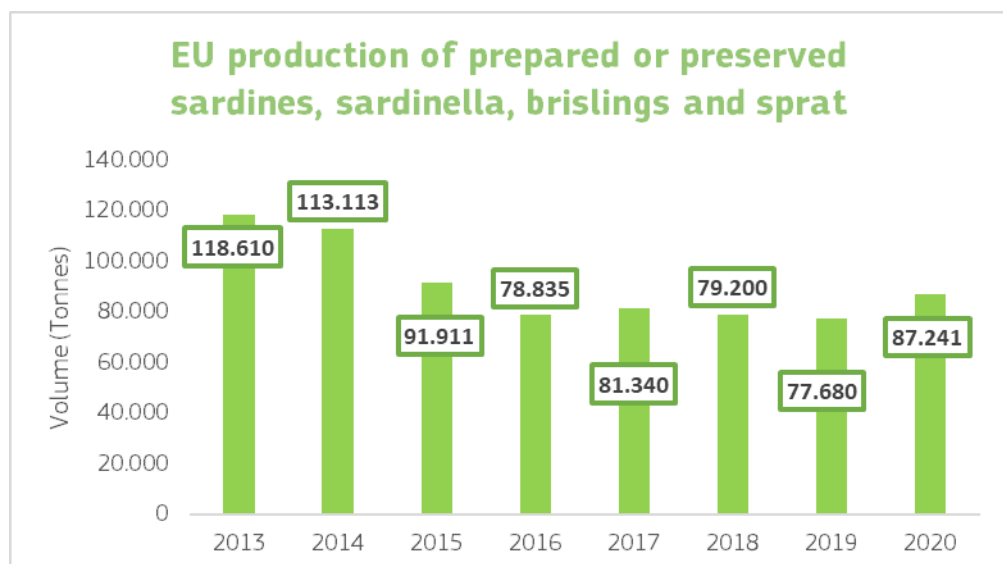
In PRODCOM database, the code concerning canned sprat also includes sardinellas and sardines but, depending on the producing country, it is possible to assume which species are included.

- 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 87.241 tonnes in 2020 (most recent data available for the whole EU). The EU production has decreased by 26% over the period between 2013 and 2020.

In 2020, the main producers of Sardine (i 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 2013-2020 period, Latvian production has decreased sharply by -71% while Polish production has increased by 43%.



Source: EUROSTAT/PRODCOM



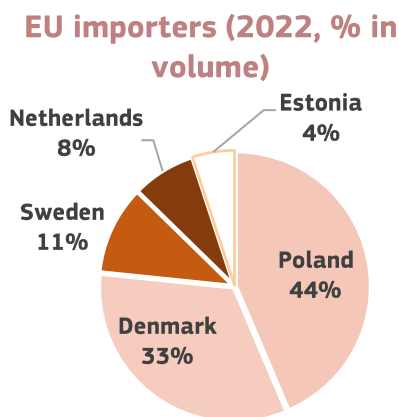
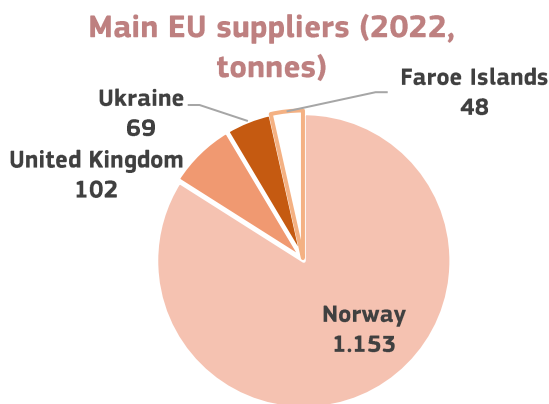
TRADE

- [Combined nomenclature](#)

EU trade of sprat products (tonnes – 2022)

CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03024390	Fresh or chilled brisling or sprats "Sprattus sprattus"	447	8.924
03035390	Frozen brisling or sprats "Sprattus sprattus"	925	36.719
Total		1.372	45.643

- Extra-EU imports** reached over 1.300 tonnes in 2022, of which 67% were frozen. EU imports from Norway reached around represented 84% of total EU imports of sprat in volume terms in 2022. The main import markets in 2022 were Poland and Denmark, representing 77% of total imports volume. Other importers included Sweden and the Netherlands, accounting respectively for 11% et 8% of the imported volume.



Source: EUMOFA

European sprat

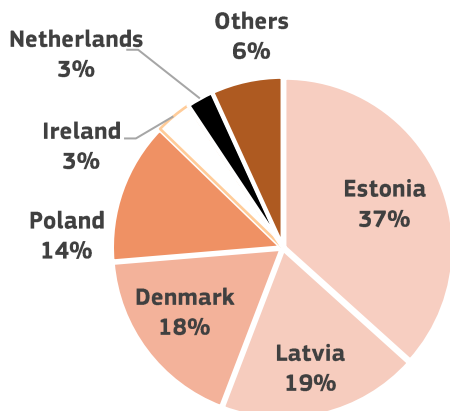


TRADE

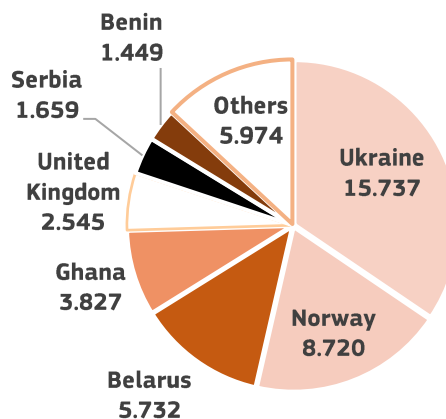
- Extra-EU exports:**

In 2022, volumes totaled over 45.600 tonnes. 80% of exports concerned frozen sprat and 37% of the EU-exports originated from Estonia. Other sprat exporters included Latvia (19% of the volume exported), Denmark (18%) and Poland (14%). In 2022, Ukraine, Norway and Belarus were the main markets for EU exports, accounting for 66% of total volume.

EU exporters (2022, % in volume)



Main destinations (2022, tonnes)

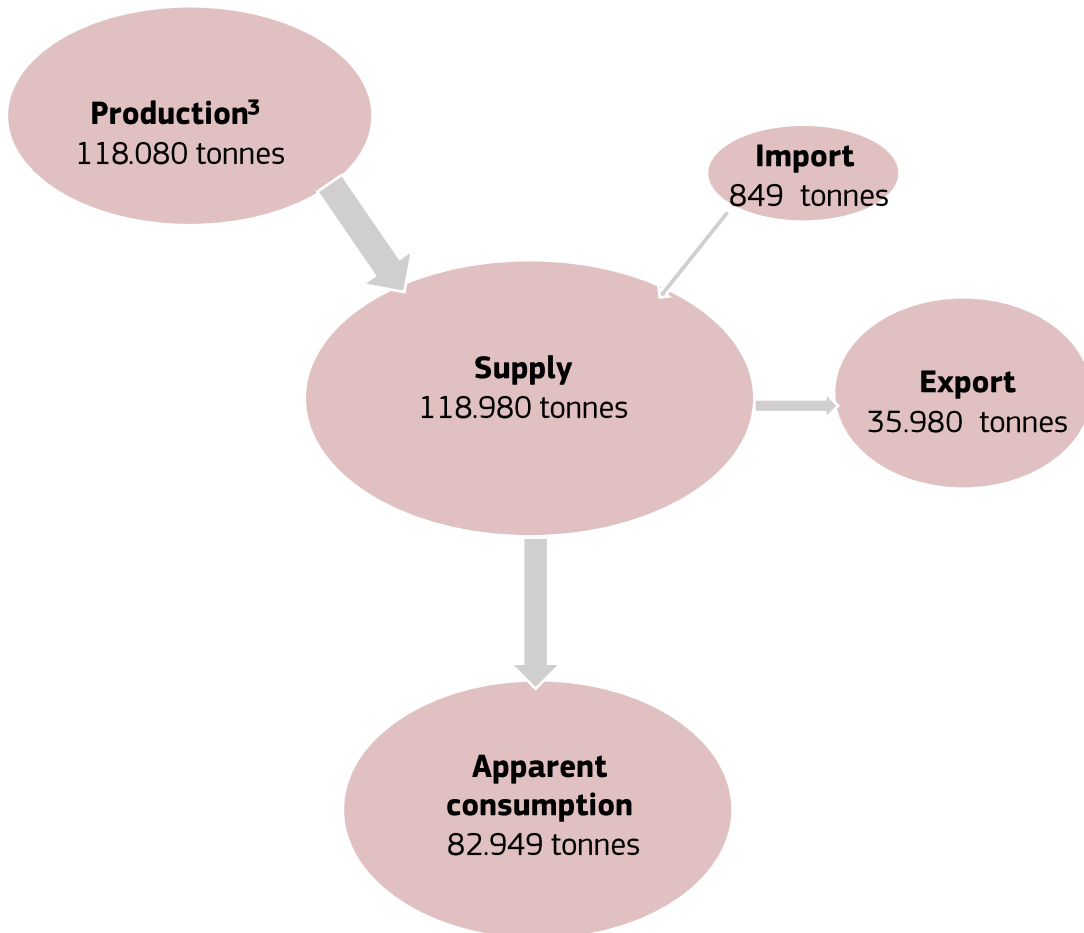


Source: EUMOFA



Supply balance

EU supply balance (2021¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Sprat



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ Supply balance is provided for the year 2021 (trade data for 2021 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slides 4 and 5 concern the year 2022.

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.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Denmark, fresh	0,22	0,24	0,26	0,18	0,22	0,25	0,26	0,27	0,32	0,45	EUMOFA
Poland, fresh	n.a.	n.a.	0,21	0,18	0,18	0,16	0,19	0,20	0,22	0,30	EUMOFA
Sweden, fresh	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,23	0,24	0,28	0,35	EUMOFA
Sweden, frozen	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,22	0,16	0,31	0,36	EUMOFA

(*) From January to November 2023

Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are reported for Rungis (France).

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
France, "Sprat fumé"	5,30	5,30	5,30	5,30	5,30	5,30	5,30	5,30	5,68	6,50	Rungis (RNM)

(*) From January to November 2023

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

(*) From January to November 2023

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 2022 (Poland and Denmark).

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Poland	1,23	0,92	1,15	1,13	0,84	1,08	1,05	1,21	1,36	1,48	EUMOFA
Denmark	1,00	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0,33	0,51	1,01	1,39	1,45	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2023

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.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Estonia	0,40	0,38	0,41	0,39	0,37	0,36	0,38	0,38	0,50	0,56	EUMOFA
Latvia	0,49	0,48	0,36	0,34	0,37	0,38	0,46	0,50	0,56	0,68	EUMOFA
Poland	0,54	0,52	0,49	0,48	0,48	0,50	0,54	0,57	0,69	0,74	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2023

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

- 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)	-