

## Seafood industry

The fish and seafood industry is very important for Norway's employment and GDP, as it is one of the largest contributors to Norway's economy after the oil and gas industry. The total number of workers in Norway, who work either directly or indirectly in the seafood industry, is at about 106,000 employees. In comparison, the whole country has about 5,500,000 inhabitants.

Although Norway is a relatively small country, it is the second largest exporter of seafood in the world, right after China, which is about 25 times as large as Norway. This is because considering its many fjords, islands and bays, Norway actually has one of the longest coastlines in the world, being about 100,000 km long, which is more than twice the equator. This provides a vast number of different species, a lot of space, and great natural resources for the country.

In 2023, when Norway reached a peak in seafood exports, the revenue amounted to 172 billion NOK, which would be about 14.9 billion Euros. This equals the value of 39 million meals being served everyday throughout the whole year. The largest species being exported from Norway is salmon, which brought in about 122 billion NOK, since Norway is the leading country in salmon production. Salmon mainly lives along coasts in the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean, which Norway borders.

In 2023, Norway exported seafood to 153 different countries all over the world. Poland, Denmark and the USA are the three largest markets for Norwegian Seafood exports. Germany is also under the top 10 markets, with seafood worth NOK 5.4 billion (470,000,000 Euros) being exported from Norway to Germany. In the country itself, the average volume of fish and seafood consumed is around 19.3 kg per capita in a year. Of course, most of the seafood consumed in Norway has also been produced there.

Additionally, it is important to mention that the Norwegian seafood industry is very sustainable. Norway is one of the founding members of the "14-country ocean panel", which is the world's biggest ocean sustainability initiative with 14 countries trying to end overfishing and reduce the plastic pollution in the seas. For example, when in the 1980s, the herring and cod populations were endangered due to overfishing, Norway enforced stricter rules and managed to increase the populations of both species again. In order to minimise bycatch, the country enforced regulations about the equipment that is used for fishing. To prevent bottom trawling, a type of fishing where nets are carried across the seafloor and destroy plants and ecosystems, Norway also has national regulations. With the intention of reducing illegal fishing, Norway provides funds to developing countries which help prevent this issue. The country takes this topic very seriously and the Norwegian aquaculture is one of the most sustainable in the world.

In Germany, the fish and seafood industry is not as important for the economy as it is in Norway. Despite the fact that Germany has 15 times as many inhabitants as Norway, there are only about 2400 full-time employees in the fishing and the aquaculture sector

in the country. Thus, the proportion of Germans working in the fish and seafood industry is far smaller than the proportion of employees in Norway working in this sector. Except for one side, Germany is surrounded by mainland and has a coastline of 3660 km. It produces around 236,000 tonnes of fish per year, which brings in a value of around 290 million Euros.

Contrary to Norway, the rate of imports of fish and fish products is much higher than the export of fish and fish products in Germany. Between 2008 and 2018, exports increased by 6%, while imports increased by 22%. The consumption of fish in Germany is at around 14 kg per capita every year, but only about 20% of the seafood consumed in Germany comes from Germany. Around 80% of it is imported.

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