

11% reduction in EU fishing fleet in 5 years.

David Cross

Generally a decrease in the size of the fleets.

In 2002 there were 91 thousand fishing vessels in EU Member States. This was an 11% reduction on the 102 thousand vessels in 1997. (See table 1). In terms of the power of the fleet the 7.3 million kw was a reduction of 9% in the five year period. The total tonnage, at 1.9 million tons in 2002, was a reduction of only 2% but the comparability of this measure over the period is in doubt (see the Methodological Notes).

Greece had the largest number of fishing vessels (19 747) but Spain's fleet was the largest in terms of the total tonnage (513 thousand tonnes) and the total power (1.3 million kw). Sweden recorded the largest decrease in the number of vessels (-20%) followed by Spain (-17%), Denmark (-15%) and Italy (-15%). In terms of the total power of their fleets, Italy, Spain and Finland recorded the largest decreases (-15%, -14% and -14% respectively).

Ireland was unique among the EU Member States in recording an increase in the size of its fleet over the 5 year period in terms of all three measures: the number (+12%), tonnage (+19%) and power (+8%).

Country	Number			Total tonnage (tons)			Total power (kw)		
	1997	2002	% change	1997	2002	% change	1997	2002	% change
BE	148	130	-12	23 050	24 276	5	64 896	66 699	3
DK	4 583	3 874	-15	95 545	97 754	2	376 409	347 476	-8
DE	2 342	2 247	-4	68 631	69 490	1	161 486	163 912	2
EL	20 503	19 747	-4	96 870	94 391	-3	653 065	606 188	-7
ES	17 930	14 887	-17	566 358	512 510	-10	1 467 993	1 257 221	-14
FR	8 819	8 088	-8	205 155	225 997	10	1 144 135	1 111 330	-3
IE	1 293	1 448	12	60 313	71 979	19	195 730	210 624	8
IT	18 964	16 045	-15	238 083	214 015	-10	1 508 639	1 289 681	-15
NL	1 033	932	-10	173 751	200 059	15	480 101	470 031	-2
PT	11 376	10 427	-8	115 259	111 691	-3	393 102	401 186	2
FI	3 989	3 571	-10	22 168	17 859	-19	220 341	188 800	-14
SE	2 261	1 820	-20	47 691	44 680	-6	244 644	224 450	-8
UK	8 505	7 379	-13	249 107	243 180	-2	1 031 806	924 218	-10
EU-15	101 746	90 595	-11	1 961 981	1 927 881	-2	7 942 347	7 261 816	-9

Table 1: EU fishing fleet in 1997 and 2002

Majority of EU fishing vessels are small.

81% of EU fishing vessels are less than 12 metres in length and only 4% are greater than 24 metres in length. (See Table 2). Only in Belgium and the Netherlands are the smaller vessels not in the majority. In the remaining Member States vessels of less than 12 metres in length make up over two thirds the fleet and in Finland and Greece, the latter with the largest fleet, over 90% of the total.

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

THEME 5 – 32/2003

FISHERIES

Contents

Generally a decrease in the size of the fleets..... 1

Majority of EU fishing vessels are small. 1

Half of EU fishing vessels more than 22 years old..... 3



Country	Length not known	Length classes (meters)				Total	% less than 12m	% 24m and over
		0 - 11.9m	12 - 23.9m	24m and over	Total			
BE	0	0	54	76	130	0	58	
DK	1	2 924	755	194	3 874	75	5	
DE	1	1 817	342	87	2 247	81	4	
EL	1	18 489	1 027	230	19 747	94	1	
ES	888	10 271	2 575	1 153	14 887	73	8	
FR	0	6 333	1 466	289	8 088	78	4	
IE	0	1 044	273	131	1 448	72	9	
IT	11	11 096	4 317	621	16 045	69	4	
NL	0	266	300	366	932	29	39	
PT	55	9 381	700	291	10 427	90	3	
FI	64	3 370	120	17	3 571	96	0	
SE	0	1 475	257	88	1 820	81	5	
UK	0	5 979	982	418	7 379	81	6	
EU-15	1 021	72 445	13 168	3 961	90 595	81	4	

Table 2: Number of EU fishing vessels by length classes in 2002.

The same picture is seen if one looks at the structure of the EU fleet by power and tonnage classes (See Tables 3 and 4). 62% of the vessels have a power of less than 50 kw and only in Belgium and the Netherlands are there an appreciable proportion of vessels of more than 500 kw (47% and 24% respectively). 88% of vessels have a tonnage of less than 25 tons and only 2% are of 250 tons and greater. Not unexpectedly, Belgium and the Netherlands are again the exception with only 2% and 38% respectively being below 25 tons.

Country	Total power (kw)				Total	% less than 50kw	% 500+ kw
	Not known	0 - 49.9 kw	50 - 499.9 kw	500 + kw			
BE	0	0	69	61	130	0	47
DK	185	2 194	1 349	146	3 874	59	4
DE	161	1 493	557	36	2 247	72	2
EL	481	16 129	3 100	37	19 747	84	0
ES	2 076	8 238	4 128	445	14 887	64	3
FR	203	2 189	5 489	207	8 088	28	3
IE	6	787	568	87	1 448	55	6
IT	2 007	6 948	6 881	209	16 045	49	1
NL	2	217	493	220	932	23	24
PT	2 244	6 836	1 229	118	10 427	84	1
FI	0	2 514	1 038	19	3 571	70	1
SE	0	860	882	78	1 820	47	4
UK	54	3 384	3 625	316	7 379	46	4
EU-15	7 419	51 789	29 408	1 979	90 595	62	2

Table 3: Number of EU fishing vessels by power classes in 2002

Country	Tonnage classes				Total	% less 25t	% 250 & over
	Not known	0 - 24.9 t	25 - 249.9 t	250 & over			
BE	0	2	82	46	130	2	35
DK	0	3 325	439	110	3 874	86	3
DE	0	1 907	312	28	2 247	85	1
EL	1	19 092	625	29	19 747	97	0
ES	0	12 111	2 304	472	14 887	81	3
FR	0	6 710	1 274	104	8 088	83	1
IE	0	1 084	317	47	1 448	75	3
IT	1	13 930	2 088	26	16 045	87	0
NL	0	354	406	172	932	38	18
PT	0	9 814	546	67	10 427	94	1
FI	0	3 449	117	5	3 571	97	0
SE	0	1 564	207	49	1 820	86	3
UK	1	6 136	1 033	209	7 379	83	3
EU-15	3	79 478	9 750	1 364	90 595	88	2

Table 4: Number of EU fishing vessels by tonnage classes in 2002.

Half of EU fishing vessels more than 22 years old.

The median age of EU fishing vessels in 2002 was 22.3 years (See Table 5). The median age was greatest in Denmark and Spain (25.0 years each) closely followed by Italy (24.8 years), Portugal (24.7 years) and Ireland (24.4 years). The youngest fleets were found in Belgium (median age 16.7 years), followed by France (17.2 years) and Finland (17.5 years).

Country	Median age (years)
BE	16.7
DK	25.0
DE	22.5
EL	20.8
ES	25.0
FR	17.2
IE	24.4
IT	24.8
NL	19.3
PT	24.7
FI	17.5
SE	23.6
UK	20.6
EU-15	22.3

Table 5: Median age of EU fishing vessels in 2002

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Eurostat compiles its fleet statistics from a Statistical Register of Fishing Vessels that is updated annually from an administrative file maintained by the Directorate-General for Fisheries (DG FISH) in application of Commission Regulation (EC) No 109/94. Eurostat gratefully acknowledges the assistance it receives from the DG FISH in this work.

The data in the Statistical Register relate to the situation on 31 December of the reference year. The Statistical Register records the length, tonnage, power and year of construction of all registered fishing vessels.

Under the EU legislation the Member States are required to record the vessel tonnage using the Gross Tonnage (GT) under the London Convention (1986) as opposed to the previously used Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) under the Oslo Convention (1946). This change in recording tonnage has taken place over a number of years throughout the 1990's and at varying rates in different countries. Given that the GT of a vessels is generally significantly greater than the GRT, great care has to be taken in comparing the tonnages of the various fleets at differing times. By the end of 2002 the recording of the tonnage by GT was largely complete.

Selected summary statistics from the register are available in the NewCronos domain "FISH". Although individual records in the register are confidential, Eurostat is ready to meet requests for customised tabulations from the register for the above-mentioned vessel parameters.

Further information:

➤ Databases

NewCronos, Theme 5

To obtain information or to order publications, databases and special sets of data, please contact the **Data Shop** network:

DANMARK	DEUTSCHLAND	ESPAÑA	FRANCE	ITALIA – Roma
DANMARKS STATISTIK Bibliotek og Information Eurostat Data Shop Sejrogade 11 DK-2100 KØBENHAVN Ø Tlf. (45) 39 17 30 30 Fax (45) 39 17 30 03 E-mail: bb@dst.dk URL: http://www.dst.dk/bibliotek	STATISTISCHES BUNDESAMT Eurostat Data Shop Berlin Otto-Braun-Straße 70-72 (Eingang: Karl-Marx-Allee) D-10178 BERLIN Tel. (49) 1888-644 94 27/28 (49) 611 75 94 27 Fax (49) 1888-644 94 30 E-Mail: datashop@destatis.de URL: http://www.eu-datashop.de/	INE Eurostat Data Shop Paseo de la Castellana, 183 Despacho 011B Entrada por Estébanez Calderón E-28046 MADRID Tel. (34) 915 839 167/ 915 839 500 Fax (34) 915 830 357 E-mail: datashop.eurostat@ine.es URL: http://www.ine.es/produser/datashop/index.html	INSEE Info Service Eurostat Data Shop 195, rue de Bercy Tour Gamma A F-75582 PARIS CEDEX 12 Tél. (33) 1 53 17 88 44 Fax (33) 1 53 17 88 22 E-mail: datashop@insee.fr	ISTAT Centro di Informazione Statistica Sede di Roma, Eurostat Data Shop Via Cesare Balbo, 11a I-00184 ROMA Tel. (39) 06 46 73 32 28 Fax (39) 06 46 73 31 01/07 E-mail: datashop@istat.it URL: http://www.istat.it/Prodotti-e/Allegati/Eurostatdatashop.html
ITALIA – Milano	NEDERLAND	NORGE	PORTUGAL	SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA
ISTAT Ufficio Regionale per la Lombardia Eurostat Data Shop Via Fieno 3 I-20123 MILANO Tel. (39) 02 80 61 32 460 Fax (39) 02 80 61 32 304 E-mail: mileuro@tin.it URL: http://www.istat.it/Prodotti-e/Allegati/Eurostatdatashop.html	Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek Eurostat Data Shop-Voorburg Postbus 4000 2270 JM VOORBURG Nederland Tel. (31-70) 337 49 00 Fax (31-70) 337 59 84 E-mail: datashop@cbs.nl URL: www.cbs.nl/eurodatashop	Statistics Norway Library and Information Centre Eurostat Data Shop Kongens gate 6 Boks 8131 Dep. N-0033 OSLO Tel. (47) 21 09 46 42/43 Fax (47) 21 09 45 04 E-mail: Datashop@ssb.no URL: http://www.ssb.no/biblioteket/datashop/	Eurostat Data Shop Lisboa INE/Serviço de Difusão Av. António José de Almeida, 2 P-1000-043 LISBOA Tel. (351) 21 842 61 00 Fax (351) 21 842 63 64 E-mail: ata.shop@ine.pt	Statistisches Amt des Kantons Zürich, Eurostat Data Shop Bleichenweg 5 CH-8090 Zürich Tel. (41) 1 225 12 12 Fax (41) 1 225 12 99 E-mail: datashop@statistik.zh.ch URL: http://www.statistik.zh.ch
SUOMI/FINLAND	SVERIGE	UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
STATISTICS FINLAND Eurostat Data Shop Helsinki Tilastokirjasto PL 2B FIN-00022 Tilastokeskus Työpajakatu 13 B, 2. kerros, Helsinki P. (358-9) 17 34 22 21 F. (358-9) 17 34 22 79 Sähköposti: datashop@stat.fi URL: http://tilastokeskus.fi/tk/kk/datashop/	STATISTICS SWEDEN Information service Eurostat Data Shop Karlavägen 100 - Box 24 300 S-104 51 STOCKHOLM Tfn (46-8) 50 69 48 01 Fax (46-8) 50 69 48 99 E-post: infoservice@scb.se URL: http://www.scb.se/tjanster/datashop/datashop.asp	Eurostat Data Shop Office for National Statistics Room 1.015 Cardiff Road Newport NP10 8XG South Wales United Kingdom Tel. (44-1633) 81 33 69 Fax (44-1633) 81 33 33 E-mail: eurostat.datashop@ons.gov.uk	HAVER ANALYTICS Eurostat Data Shop 60 East 42nd Street Suite 3310 NEW YORK, NY 10165 USA Tel. (1-212) 986 93 00 Fax (1-212) 986 69 81 E-mail: euromdata@haver.com URL: http://www.haver.com/	

Media Support Eurostat (for professional journalists only):

Bech Building Office A4/017 • L-2920 Luxembourg • Tel. (352) 4301 33408 • Fax (352) 4301 35349 • e-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int

For information on methodology

David Cross, Eurostat Unit / F2, L-2920 Luxembourg, Tel. (352) 4301 37249, Fax (352) 4301 37318,

E-mail: david.cross@cec.eu.int

ORIGINAL: English

Please visit our web site at www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ for further information!

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the **Office for Official Publications of the European Communities**.

2 rue Mercier – L-2985 Luxembourg
Tel. (352) 2929 42118 Fax (352) 2929 42709
URL: <http://publications.eu.int>
E-mail: info-info-opoce@cec.eu.int

BELGIQUE/BELGIË – DANMARK – DEUTSCHLAND – GREECE/ELLADA – ESPAÑA – FRANCE – IRELAND – ITALIA – LUXEMBOURG – NEDERLAND – ÖSTERREICH
PORTUGAL – SUOMI/FINLAND – SVERIGE – UNITED KINGDOM – ISLAND – NORGE – SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA – BALGARJIA – ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA – CYPRUS
EESTI – HRVATSKA – MAGYARORSZÁG – MALTA – POLSKA – ROMÂNIA – RUSSIA – SLOVAKIA – SLOVENIA – TÜRKIYE – AUSTRALIA – CANADA – EGYPT – INDIA
ISRAËL – JAPAN – MALAYSIA – PHILIPPINES – SOUTH KOREA – THAILAND – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Order form

I would like to subscribe to Statistics in focus (from 1.1.2003 to 31.12.2003):

(for the Data Shop and sales office addresses see above)

All 9 themes (approximately 200 issues)

Paper: EUR 240

Language required: DE EN FR

Statistics in focus can be downloaded (pdf file) free of charge from the Eurostat web site. You only need to register. For other solutions, contact your Data Shop.

Please send me a free copy of 'Eurostat mini-guide' (catalogue containing a selection of Eurostat products and services)

Language required: DE EN FR

I would like a free subscription to 'Statistical References', the information letter on Eurostat products and services

Language required: DE EN FR

Mr Mrs Ms

(Please use block capitals)

Surname: _____ Forename: _____

Company: _____ Department: _____

Function: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Town: _____

Country: _____

Tel.: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment on receipt of invoice, preferably by:

Bank transfer

Visa Eurocard

Card No: _____ Expires on: ____/____/____

Please confirm your intra-Community VAT number:

If no number is entered, VAT will be automatically applied. Subsequent reimbursement will not be possible.