

# FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Global catches from wild fisheries are also expected to decline slightly in 2020, as there is an overall reduced fishing effort due to COVID-19-related restrictions on fishing vessel crews and poor market conditions. Fish supply, consumption and trade revenues are all expected to decline this year due to the impact of the pandemic containment measures on demand, logistics, prices, labour and business planning. Global aquaculture production is now expected to fall for the first time in many years, by some 1.3 percent. Sectors with longer production cycles, such as salmon, cannot adjust rapidly to the demand shifts, though shrimp and pangasius farmers have been able to quickly reduce their output significantly. Global catches from wild fisheries are also expected to decline slightly in 2020, as, overall, there is a reduced fishing effort due to COVID-19-related restrictions on fishing vessel crews and poor market conditions.

The market effects of the pandemic have brought about several far-reaching changes, many of which are likely to persist in the long term. Aggregate prices for 2020, as measured by the Fish Price Index, are down year-on-year for most traded species. The importance of retail sales has significantly increased at the expense of food services, as the hospitality sector has remained subdued. Consumers, who are trying to limit visits to grocery stores and concerned about future lockdowns, have shifted their seafood preferences towards preserved and prepared products, while demand for fresh fish has waned. The necessity of home cooking is a new focus for marketing campaigns and online distributors, while product innovations centred on convenience are proliferating. The economic downturn and rising unemployment are affecting household incomes, with demand for luxury products such as lobster weakening. At the same time, sales of canned tuna, sardines and mackerel have seen a boost.

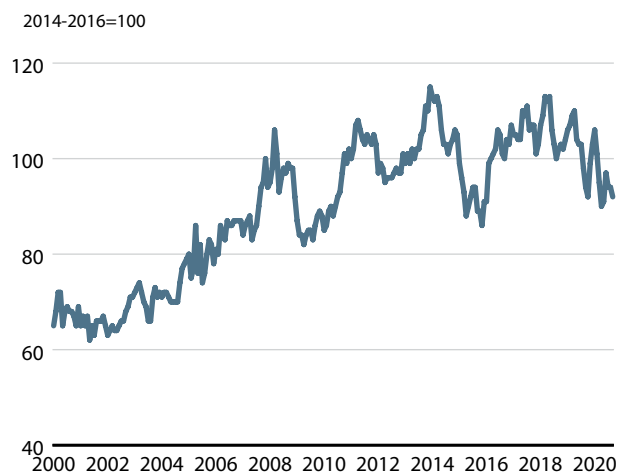
The outlook for the next few months is continued uncertainty and a strong tendency towards risk aversion on the part of businesses and consumers alike. The recent uptick in cases in many countries underlines the continuing threat to market stability. On the positive side, product innovations, new distribution channels and the shortening of value chains that have coincided with this upheaval are likely to benefit the seafood industry for many years to come.

**For additional analyses and updates, see:**  
The GLOBEFISH market reports at  
<http://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/market-reports>

## Contact:

Audun.Lem@fao.org  
Stefania.Vannuccini@fao.org

## Fish price index (2014-2016 = 100)



Source of the raw data for the FAO Fish Price Index: EUMOFA, INFOFISH, INFOPECA, INFOYU, Statistics Norway.

## World fish market at a glance

	2018	2019 <i>estim.</i>	2020 <i>f'cast</i>		Change: 2020 over 2019
			June	Nov.	%
	<i>million tonnes (live weight)</i>				
<b>WORLD BALANCE</b>					
<b>Production</b>	<b>178.5</b>	<b>175.9</b>	<b>172.9</b>	<b>174.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Capture fisheries	96.4	91.8	89.9	91.2	-0.7
Aquaculture	82.1	84.1	82.9	83.0	-1.3
<b>Trade value (exports USD billion)</b>	<b>165.4</b>	<b>161.3</b>	<b>150.4</b>	<b>152.2</b>	<b>-5.7</b>
<b>Trade volume (live weight)</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>-3.9</b>
<b>Total utilization</b>	<b>178.5</b>	<b>175.9</b>	<b>172.9</b>	<b>174.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Food	156.4	156.4	154.2	154.7	-1.1
Feed	18.2	15.5	15.0	15.7	1.3
Other uses	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.8	-5.0
<b>SUPPLY AND DEMAND INDICATORS</b>					
<b>Per caput food consumption:</b>					
Food fish (kg/yr)	20.5	20.3	19.8	19.9	-2.1
From capture fisheries (kg/year)	9.7	9.4	9.1	9.2	-1.9
From aquaculture (kg/year)	10.8	10.9	10.6	10.7	-2.3
<b>FAO FISH PRICE INDEX (2014-2016=100)</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>		<b>% Change</b>
			<i>Jan-Sept</i>		<b>Jan/Sept 2020 over Jan/Sept 2019</b>
	106	102	96		-7.8

Source of the raw data for the FAO Fish Price Index: EUMOFA, INFOFISH, INFOPECA, INFOYU, Statistics Norway.

\* Jan-Sep 2019 over Jan-Sep 2020, in percent

## APPENDIX TABLE 29: FISH PRICE INDICES

Period	Total	Aquaculture	Capture	Whitefish	Salmon	Shrimp	Pelagic excl. tuna	Tuna
<b>Annual (Jan/Dec)</b>	..... (2014-2016=100) .....							
2009	85	79	88	99	84	75	82	86
2010	93	95	92	103	97	84	85	87
2011	104	103	105	114	100	97	104	105
2012	97	92	106	111	78	87	115	119
2013	104	107	104	104	99	99	107	119
2014	107	113	104	105	102	113	100	108
2015	92	90	96	97	84	92	99	91
2016	102	97	100	97	114	94	101	101
2017	106	101	106	108	117	96	92	112
2018	106	101	107	118	119	88	96	105
2019	102	96	106	121	108	86	92	100
<b>Monthly</b>								
2018 - January	107	100	110	116	114	93	97	110
2018 - February	109	102	108	117	126	92	98	105
2018 - March	113	105	111	120	138	91	107	102
2018 - April	112	105	110	120	135	91	99	108
2018 - May	113	106	107	117	144	88	101	106
2018 - June	106	101	106	117	121	86	93	107
2018 - July	103	98	108	113	107	86	114	103
2018 - August	100	98	103	113	101	86	98	104
2018 - September	102	102	97	115	116	88	83	98
2018 - October	103	102	102	116	113	87	86	107
2018 - November	102	100	108	126	101	86	86	109
2018 - December	104	100	108	128	107	85	87	105
2019 - January	106	101	111	132	113	84	89	109
2019 - February	107	101	110	134	111	84	91	110
2019 - March	109	104	106	137	120	84	87	106
2019 - April	110	104	110	130	129	85	94	105
2019 - May	104	99	108	125	111	85	92	104
2019 - June	103	97	106	122	110	85	91	99
2019 - July	103	95	113	119	103	87	118	100
2019 - August	98	92	105	114	97	88	86	100
2019 - September	94	89	102	111	88	87	85	96
2019 - October	92	87	97	98	90	86	91	96
2019 - November	99	91	104	115	103	86	87	96
2019 - December	103	95	100	119	123	86	88	82
2020 - January	106	96	102	122	134	86	92	80
2020 - February	101	93	102	119	116	86	82	89
2020 - March	95	87	102	103	97	85	90	97
2020 - April	90	84	98	97	86	85	80	101
2020 - May	91	81	100	94	96	82	93	97
2020 - June	97	86	102	96	108	88	108	90
2020 - July	94	87	101	103	93	90	96	91
2020 - August	94	88	103	103	89	90	95	99
2020 - September	92	87	100	103	86	88	92	93

Source of the raw data for the FAO Fish Price Index: EUMOFA, INFOFISH, INFOPECSA, INFOYU, Statistics Norway.  
Note: The table presents a new version of the FAO Fish Price Index rebased at 2014–2016.