

In 2019, the total output generated by the aquaculture and Tuna farming industry in Malta stood at €169.9 million; a decline of 29.0 per cent over the amount recorded in 2018.

## Aquaculture: 2019

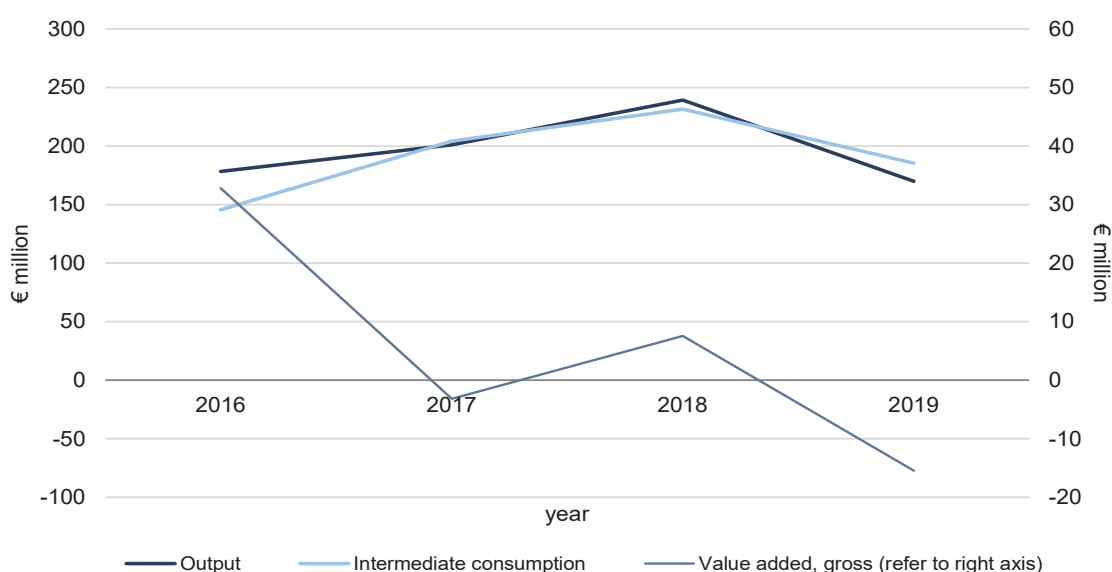
The annual census conducted amongst all the enterprises operating in the local aquaculture and Tuna farming industry indicates that, during 2019, the combined output generated by this activity fell by €69.3 million or 29.0 per cent over that recorded in 2018. Similarly, the intermediate consumption of the industry, which comprises the main operating expenses incurred by the operators, fell by €46.3 million or 20.0 per cent over that registered a year before. As a result, the industry's gross value added settled at a negative balance of €15.4 million.

The gross fixed capital consumption of the assets held by the industry edged upwards by €0.5 million to a total of €4.7 million, while compensation of employees rose by €0.9 million to €9.5 million. Overall, the industry registered a net operating loss of €29.7 million (Table 1).

In terms of volume, the total sales of farmed fish fell by 5,468 tonnes or 28.3 per cent when compared to the preceding year; mainly due to a decline in farmed Tuna volume sales of 5,356 tonnes (or 30.9 per cent). In terms of value, the total sales of farmed fish decreased by €80.8 million, or 33.3 per cent, to a total of €161.9 million (Table 2).

As regards the various expenditure costs incurred by the industry, the purchases of live Tuna and fingerlings declined by €16.3 million, or 14.8 per cent, to a total of €93.6 million. This expenditure item accounted for 50.5 per cent of the entire intermediate consumption of the industry. Similarly, variable production costs decreased by 23.0 per cent over 2018 to €66.4 million; while selling costs and overheads fell by 28.0 and 28.7 per cent, to €5.0 and €20.3 million respectively (Table 3) ■

**Chart 1. Output, intermediate consumption and gross value added of the aquaculture industry**



**Table 1. Value added of the aquaculture industry**

	2016	2017	2018	2019 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Number of fish farms</b>	6	7	7	7
				€ million
<b>Output</b>	178.4	201.2	239.2	169.9
of which:				
Tuna farming	152.5	168.4	228.6	152.1
Closed cycle species <sup>1</sup>	11.5	12.0	14.1	9.8
Change in stocks	10.0	18.3	-7.1	4.9
Other output	4.5	2.5	3.6	3.0
Less intermediate consumption	145.7	204.4	231.6	185.3
<b>Value added, gross</b>	32.8	-3.2	7.6	-15.4
Less consumption of fixed capital	1.3	2.0	4.2	4.7
<b>Value added, net</b>	31.4	-5.2	3.3	-20.2
Less compensation of employees	3.8	4.9	8.6	9.5
Less taxes on production <sup>2</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Add subsidies on production	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Operating surplus, net</b>	27.6	-10.2	-5.3	-29.7

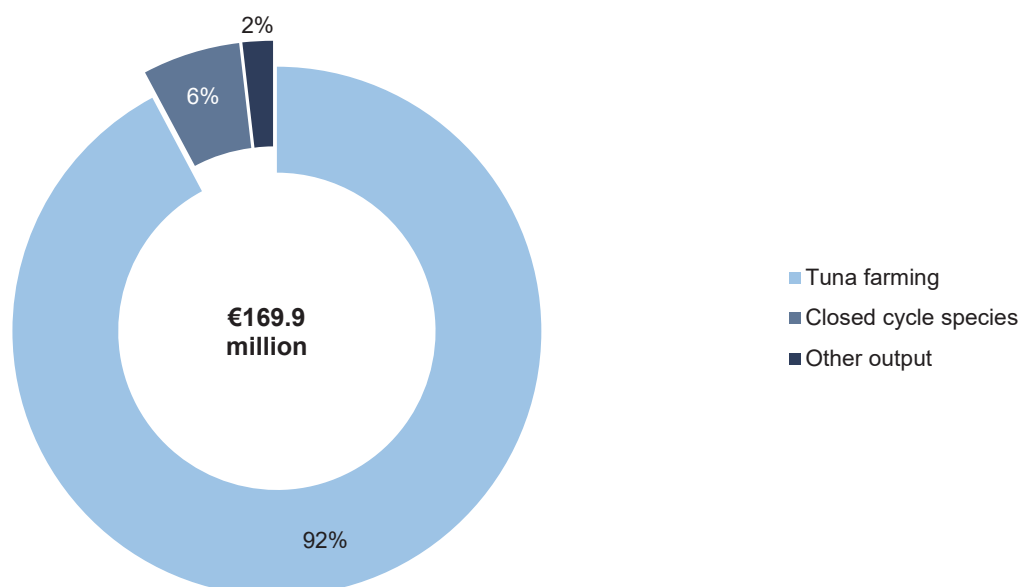
<sup>P</sup> provisional

<sup>1</sup> Closed cycle species refer to Gilthead seabream, European seabass, Meagre and Amberjack.

<sup>2</sup> Caging fees and/or corporate taxes incurred by the industry are, by methodology, not accounted for under this item.

Note: Figures may not add up due to rounding.

**Chart 2. Percentage distribution of selected aquaculture output: 2019**



**Table 2. Sales and purchases of fish**

	2016	2017	2018	2019 <sup>P</sup>	2017/2016	2018/2017	2019/2018
					Percentage change		
<b>Sales of fish</b>							
<b>Kg (000)</b>	<b>13,656</b>	<b>15,721</b>	<b>19,291</b>	<b>13,823</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>-28.3</b>
<b>€ (000)</b>	<b>164,013</b>	<b>180,402</b>	<b>242,684</b>	<b>161,912</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>-33.3</b>
Tuna							
Kg (000)	11,292	13,120	17,326	11,970	16.2	32.1	-30.9
€ (000)	152,501	168,356	228,583	152,070	10.4	35.8	-33.5
Gilthead seabream							
Kg (000)	2,221	2,458	1,779	1,783	10.7	-27.6	0.2
€ (000)	10,330	10,900	10,456	9,359	5.5	-4.1	-10.5
European seabass							
Kg (000)	39	59	77	62	52.9	29.3	-18.9
€ (000)	256	434	522	429	69.4	20.4	-18.0
Other							
Kg (000)	104	83	110	8	-20.0	31.8	-92.5
€ (000)	925	712	3,122	54	-23.0	338.5	-98.3
<b>Purchases of fish</b>							
<b>Kg (000)</b>	<b>6,415</b>	<b>8,632</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>9,821</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>€ (000)</b>	<b>67,083</b>	<b>101,069</b>	<b>109,888</b>	<b>93,572</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>-14.8</b>
Tuna							
Kg (000)	6,393	8,615	9,269	9,783	34.8	7.6	5.5
€ (000)	66,040	99,835	108,465	92,375	51.2	8.6	-14.8
Closed cycle species							
Kg (000)	22	17	24	38	-23.3	45.0	55.8
€ (000)	1,042	1,234	1,423	1,196	18.3	15.3	-15.9

<sup>P</sup> provisional

Notes:

1. Other includes Meagre and Amberjack.
2. Closed cycle species refer to Gilthead seabream, European seabass, Meagre and Amberjack.
3. Figures may not add up due to rounding.

**Chart 3. Distribution of sales by fish species and year**

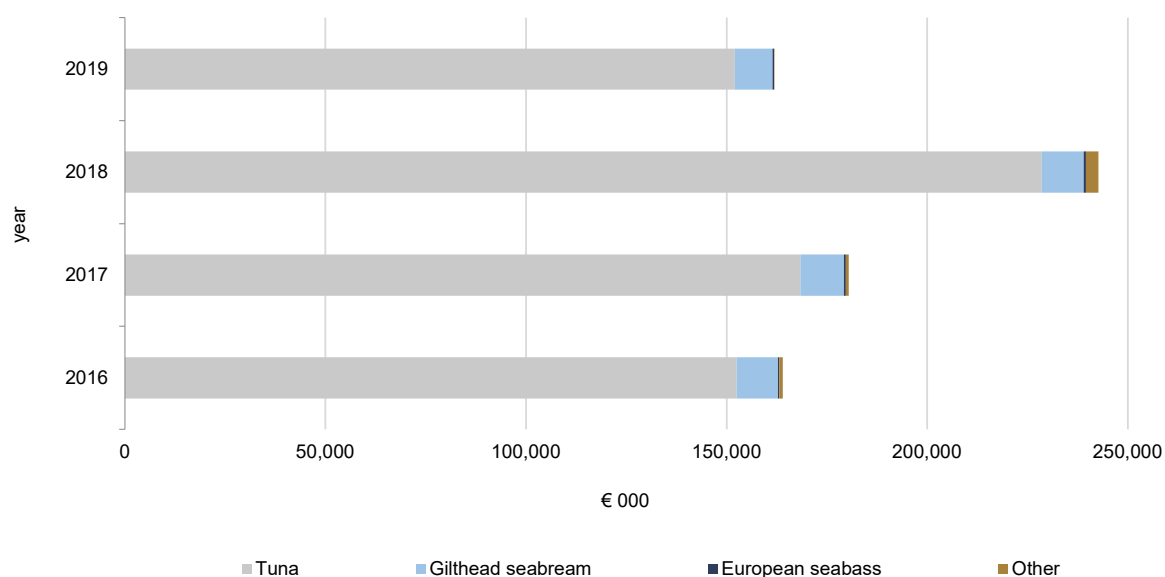


Table 3. Intermediate consumption by type of expenditure

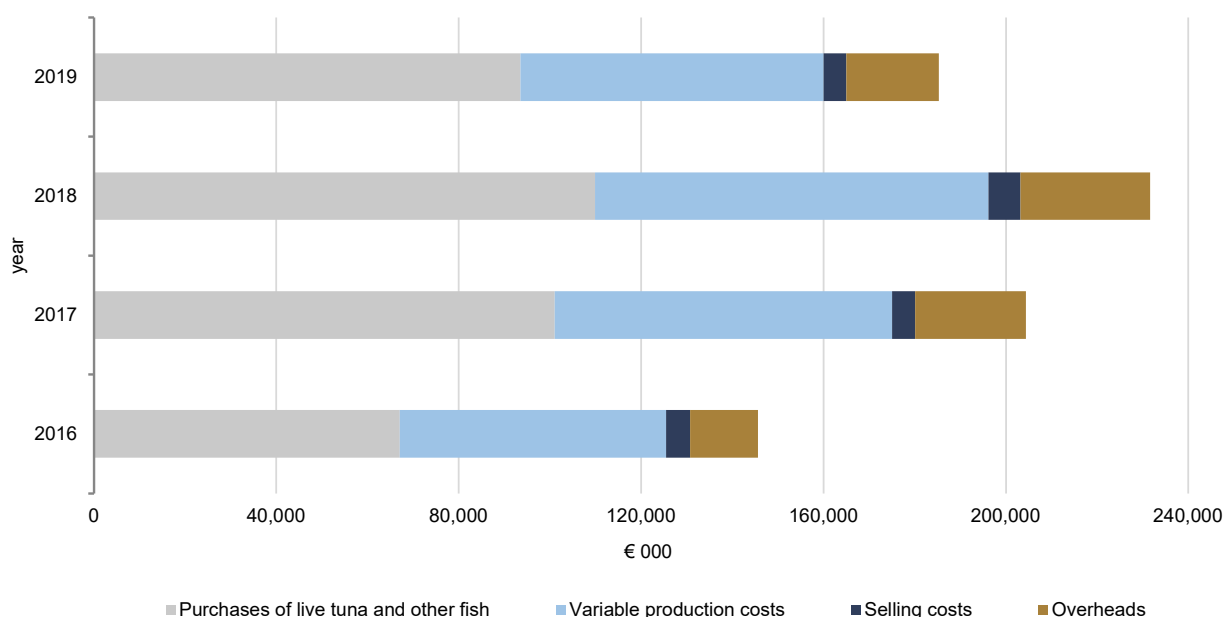
	2016	2017	2018	2019 <sup>P</sup>	2017/2016	2018/2017	2019/2018
	€ (000)				Percentage change		
<b>Total intermediate consumption</b>	<b>145,652</b>	<b>204,365</b>	<b>231,614</b>	<b>185,311</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>-20.0</b>
<b>Purchases of live Tuna and other fish</b>	<b>67,083</b>	<b>101,069</b>	<b>109,888</b>	<b>93,572</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>-14.8</b>
Tuna	66,040	99,835	108,465	92,375	51.2	8.6	-14.8
Closed cycle species	1,042	1,234	1,423	1,196	18.3	15.3	-15.9
<b>Variable production costs</b>	<b>58,428</b>	<b>74,005</b>	<b>86,286</b>	<b>66,424</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>-23.0</b>
Maintenance and repairs	2,090	4,120	4,674	3,297	97.1	13.5	-29.5
Purchase of fish feed	41,068	49,859	56,685	42,837	21.4	13.7	-24.4
Insurances and licences	1,614	1,865	2,997	2,250	15.6	60.7	-24.9
Fuel	2,245	2,111	3,153	3,534	-6.0	49.4	12.1
Other variable production costs	11,411	16,051	18,777	14,507	40.7	17.0	-22.7
<b>Selling costs</b>	<b>5,264</b>	<b>5,029</b>	<b>6,996</b>	<b>5,038</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>-28.0</b>
Packaging	442	443	488	423	0.3	10.2	-13.3
Air freight	296	320	238	-	8.1	-25.6	-
Other selling costs	4,526	4,266	6,269	4,614	-5.8	47.0	-26.4
<b>Overheads</b>	<b>14,878</b>	<b>24,262</b>	<b>28,444</b>	<b>20,278</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>-28.7</b>
Accounting fees	39	38	57	36	-2.7	49.5	-36.9
Environmental monitoring	59	45	45	64	-23.5	-1.4	43.9
Contractual work	11,245	19,909	24,197	16,386	77.1	21.5	-32.3
Other fixed costs	3,534	4,269	4,145	3,791	20.8	-2.9	-8.5

<sup>P</sup> provisional

Notes:

1. Closed cycle species refer to Gilthead seabream, European seabass, Meagre and Amberjack.
2. Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 4. Distribution of intermediate consumption by type and year



## Methodological Notes

1. The aim of this release is to provide a complete overview of the structure, output and intermediate consumption of the aquaculture industry at a particular point in time through a survey of all the fish farms operating in Malta.
2. The collected data is in line with Regulation (EC) No 762/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 regarding the submission by each Member State of statistics on aquaculture; thus repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 788/96 of 22 April 1996 and also with Appendix X of the Commission Decision (2010/93/EU) of the 18 December 2009.
3. The data in this release has been collected by means of an exhaustive survey; through which all the fish farms were asked to submit information on their structures and economic activity. The data requested from each fish farm consisted of the number, surface area and volume of cages utilised, purchases and sales of fish in weight and in value, opening and closing valuation of stocks at a particular point in time and the expenses incurred in the production of farmed fish. All the operating fish farms cooperated and responded to this survey.
4. The figures in this news release are considered as provisional; and are subject to any revision that the Office may consider as necessary.

### 5. Definitions:

- **Aquaculture industry** which is entirely dependent on marine resources, has two sectors:
  - Tuna farming which relies on captured wild fish; and is referred to as "Capture Based Species" (CBS); and
  - the farming of "closed cycle species" (CCS) such as Gilthead seabream, European seabass, Meagre and Amberjack that are cultured from eggs produced in hatcheries.
- **Change in stocks** is the difference between the closing stock of the species as at 31st December and the opening stock as at 1st January.
- **Intermediate consumption** represents the value of almost all goods and services used as inputs in the production process with the exception of some items which by methodology are classified elsewhere.
- **Gross value added** of the aquaculture industry is the value of output less the intermediate consumption.
- **Consumption of fixed capital** is the decline in value of fixed assets owned, as a result of normal wear and tear and obsolescence during an accounting period.
- **Compensation of employees** is the total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by an employer to an employee in return for work done by the latter during an accounting period.

6. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Sources and Methods:

[https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources\\_and\\_Methods/Unit\\_B3/Environment\\_Energy\\_Transport\\_and\\_Agriculture\\_Statistics/Pages/Aquaculture.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_B3/Environment_Energy_Transport_and_Agriculture_Statistics/Pages/Aquaculture.aspx)

Statistical concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>

7. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
8. A detailed news release calendar is available on:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)