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By the end of 2020, the total output produced by the aquaculture and tuna farming industry in Malta reached €178.7 million; an increase of 1.4 per cent over the corresponding value of €176.3 million registered in 2019.

## Aquaculture: 2020

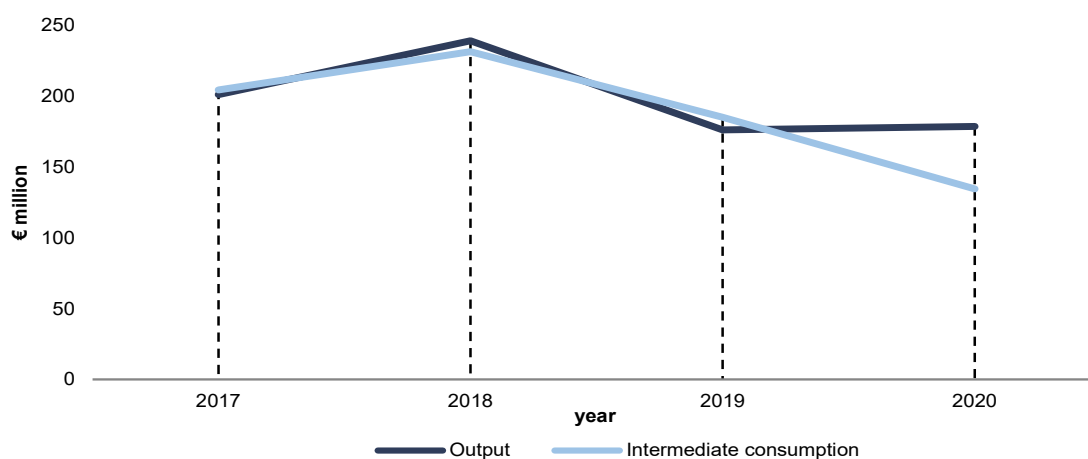
The annual census conducted amongst the enterprises operating in the local aquaculture and tuna farming industry shows that, during 2020, the total output value generated by this economic activity rose by €2.4 million or 1.4 per cent over that registered in 2019. Concurrently, the intermediate consumption of the industry, which takes into account the main operating expenses incurred by the operators, fell by €50.6 million or 27.3 per cent when compared to the preceding year. As a result, the industry's gross value added settled at a net positive balance of €44.1 million.

Meanwhile, the gross fixed capital consumption of the industry's fixed assets fell marginally by €0.3 million to a total of €4.4 million while the expenditure on the compensation of employees increased by €0.6 million to €10.1 million. The industry attained a net operating surplus of €29.6 million (Table 1).

In terms of volume, the total sales of farmed fish rose by 6.0 million kilogrammes or 43.4 per cent when compared to 2019. This was mainly due to a rise in the volume of sales of farmed tuna of 4.6 million kilogrammes (or 38.8 per cent). In terms of value, the total sales of farmed fish increased by €53.5 million or 33.1 per cent to a total of €215.4 million (Table 2).

With regard to the various expenditure costs sustained by the industry, the outlay on the purchasing of live tuna and fingerlings dropped significantly by €50.1 million or 53.6 per cent to a total of €43.5 million. Indeed, when compared to 2019, the latter expenditure item accounted for almost a third of the entire intermediate consumption of the industry. Also, the industry's variable production costs and overheads decreased by 0.2 per cent and 10.4 per cent to €66.2 million and €18.1 million respectively, while the industry's selling costs rose by 33.7 per cent to €6.7 million (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. Output and intermediate consumption of the aquaculture industry



Note: The gap in between the lines is the value added, gross.

Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

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

	2017	2018	2019	2020 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Number of fish farms</b>	7	7	7	7
				€ million
<b>Output</b>	201.2	239.2	176.3	178.7
of which:				
Tuna farming	168.4	228.6	152.1	198.3
Closed cycle species <sup>1</sup>	12.0	14.1	9.8	17.1
Change in stocks	18.3	-7.1	11.3	-38.8
Other output	2.5	3.6	3.0	2.0
Less intermediate consumption	204.4	231.6	185.2	134.6
<b>Value added, gross</b>	-3.3	7.6	-9.0	44.1
Less consumption of fixed capital	2.0	4.2	4.7	4.4
<b>Value added, net</b>	-5.3	3.4	-13.7	39.7
Less compensation of employees	4.9	8.6	9.5	10.1
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>	-10.2	-5.2	-23.2	29.6

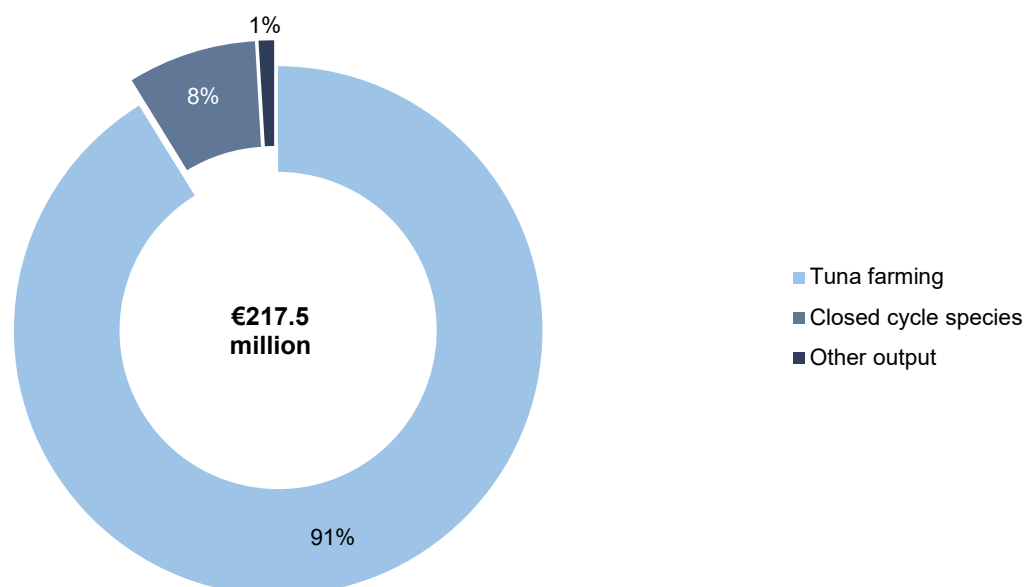
<sup>P</sup> provisional

<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: 2020**



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

	2017	2018	2019	2020 <sup>P</sup>	2018/2017	2019/2018	2020/2019
					Percentage change		
<b>Sales of fish</b>							
<b>Kg (000)</b>	<b>15,721</b>	<b>19,291</b>	<b>13,823</b>	<b>19,829</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>-28.3</b>	<b>43.4</b>
<b>€ (000)</b>	<b>180,402</b>	<b>242,684</b>	<b>161,912</b>	<b>215,447</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>-33.3</b>	<b>33.1</b>
Tuna							
Kg (000)	13,120	17,326	11,970	16,617	32.1	-30.9	38.8
€ (000)	168,356	228,583	152,070	198,340	35.8	-33.5	30.4
Gilthead seabream							
Kg (000)	2,458	1,779	1,783	2,598	-27.6	0.2	45.7
€ (000)	10,900	10,456	9,359	10,398	-4.1	-10.5	11.1
European seabass							
Kg (000)	59	77	62	136	29.3	-18.9	117.9
€ (000)	434	522	429	814	20.4	-18.0	89.9
Other							
Kg (000)	83	110	8	479	31.8	-92.5	5,721.7
€ (000)	712	3,122	54	5,895	338.5	-98.3	10,735.3
<b>Purchases of fish</b>							
<b>Kg (000)</b>	<b>8,632</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>9,821</b>	<b>9,990</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>€ (000)</b>	<b>101,069</b>	<b>109,888</b>	<b>93,572</b>	<b>43,454</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>-14.8</b>	<b>-53.6</b>
Tuna							
Kg (000)	8,615	9,269	9,783	9,960	7.6	5.5	1.8
€ (000)	99,835	108,465	92,375	42,335	8.6	-14.8	-54.2
Closed cycle species							
Kg (000)	17	24	38	30	45.0	55.8	-20.5
€ (000)	1,234	1,423	1,196	1,118	15.3	-15.9	-6.5

<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**

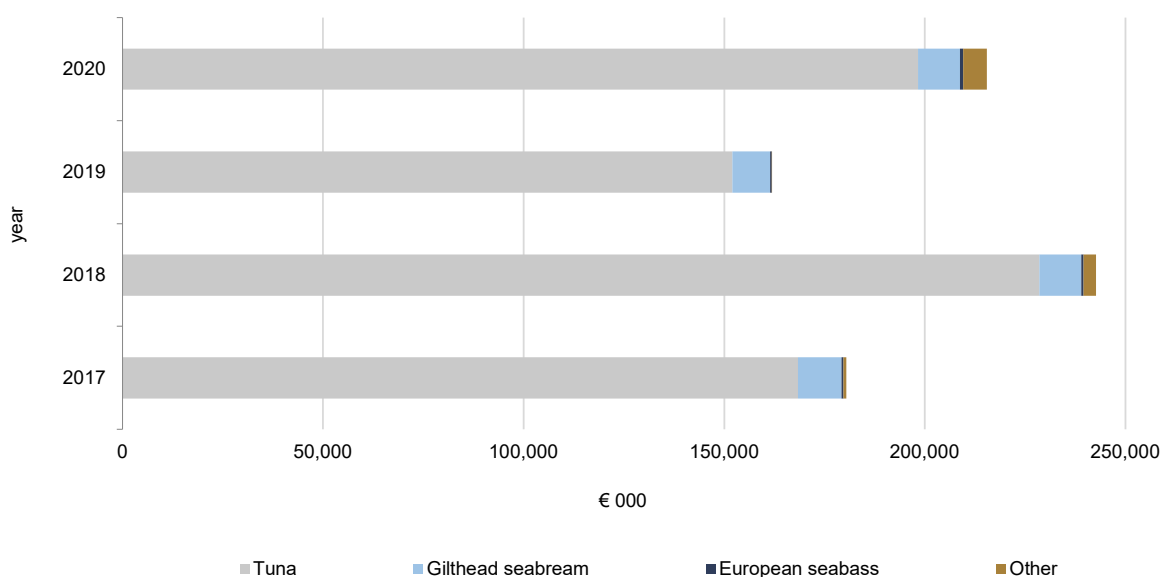


Table 3. Intermediate consumption by type of expenditure

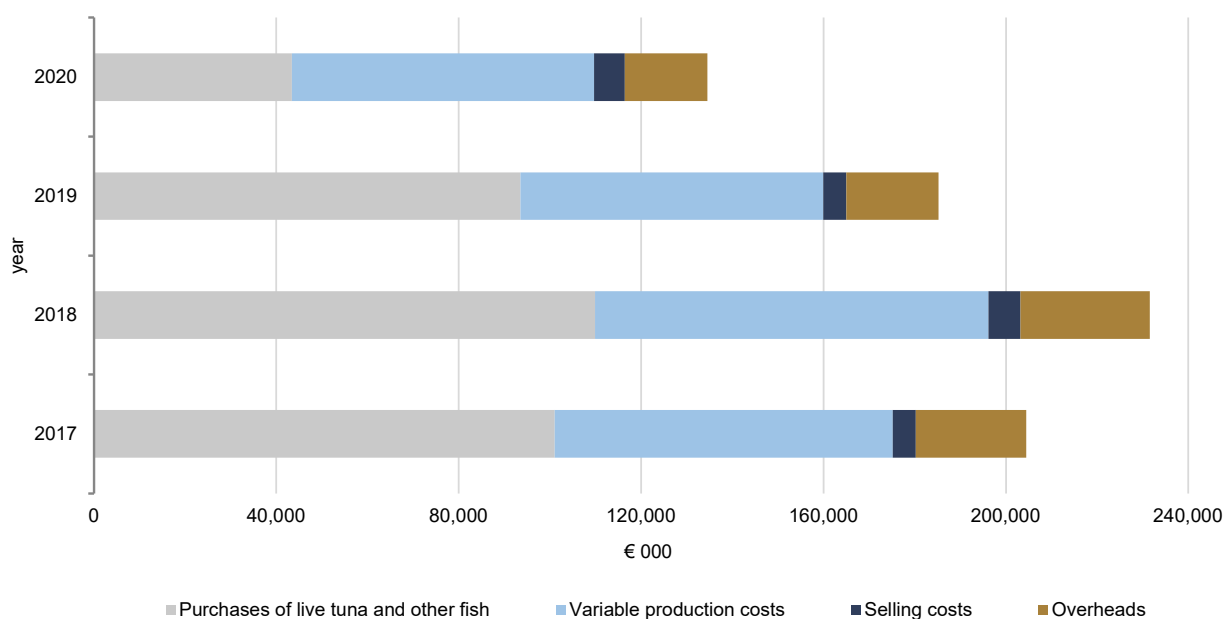
	2017	2018	2019	2020 <sup>P</sup>	2018/2017	2019/2018	2020/2019
	€ (000)				Percentage change		
<b>Total intermediate consumption</b>	<b>204,443</b>	<b>231,569</b>	<b>185,216</b>	<b>134,572</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>-20.0</b>	<b>-27.3</b>
<b>Purchases of live tuna and other fish</b>	<b>101,069</b>	<b>109,888</b>	<b>93,572</b>	<b>43,454</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>-14.8</b>	<b>-53.6</b>
Tuna	99,835	108,465	92,375	42,335	8.6	-14.8	-54.2
Closed cycle species	1,234	1,423	1,196	1,118	15.3	-15.9	-6.5
<b>Variable production costs</b>	<b>74,114</b>	<b>86,272</b>	<b>66,360</b>	<b>66,238</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>-23.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Maintenance and repairs	4,120	4,674	3,297	1,972	13.5	-29.5	-40.2
Purchase of fish feed	49,859	56,685	42,837	51,829	13.7	-24.4	21.0
Insurances and licences	1,974	2,983	2,186	2,103	51.1	-26.7	-3.8
Fuel	2,111	3,153	3,534	1,472	49.4	12.1	-58.3
Other variable production costs	16,051	18,777	14,507	8,862	17.0	-22.7	-38.9
<b>Selling costs</b>	<b>5,029</b>	<b>6,996</b>	<b>5,038</b>	<b>6,736</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>-28.0</b>	<b>33.7</b>
Packaging	443	488	423	515	10.2	-13.3	21.7
Air freight	320	238	0	0	-25.6	-100.0	-
Other selling costs	4,266	6,269	4,614	6,221	47.0	-26.4	34.8
<b>Overheads</b>	<b>24,231</b>	<b>28,413</b>	<b>20,246</b>	<b>18,144</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>-28.7</b>	<b>-10.4</b>
Accounting fees	38	57	36	45	49.5	-36.9	25.6
Environmental monitoring	45	45	64	114	-1.4	43.9	76.4
Contractual work	19,909	24,197	16,386	14,261	21.5	-32.3	-13.0
Other fixed costs	4,238	4,114	3,760	3,723	-2.9	-8.6	-1.0

<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 objective of this news release is to provide a complete overview of the structure, output and intermediate consumption registered by the aquaculture industry in Malta through statistical data that is administratively collected via a yearly census conducted amongst all the operating fish farms.
2. The collected data is collated 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 is collected by means of a detailed census carried out amongst all the registered fish farms. Each fish farm is asked by the administrative source to submit information regarding their yearly structures and economic activity. The data consists essentially of the number, surface area and volume of cages utilised by the fish farm, the purchases and sales of fish in weight and in value recorded by the entity, the opening and closing valuation of stocks held for the year, the expenses incurred in the production of farmed fish and the total assets and liabilities (starting as from the year 2020) of the same fish farms. All the operating fish farms surveyed for this year's census cooperated and responded to the requested statistics.
4. The figures reported in this publication (including the latest statistics) are subject to any revision/s that the Office may consider as necessary.

### 5. Definitions:

- **The aquaculture industry**, which is entirely dependent on marine resources, has two sectors:
  - tuna farming which relies on captured wild tuna 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 various species as at 31st December and the relative opening stock as at 1st January of the specified year.
- **Intermediate consumption** represents the value of almost all goods and services used as inputs in the production process with the exception of some specific items which, by methodology, are necessarily 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 sustained 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: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=17>

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)