

EEA Fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic

David Cross

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

THEME 5 – 18/2001

FISHERIES

Contents

General decline of EEA fishing activities in the NW Atlantic 1

Slight increase in catches in 2000..... 3

General decline of EEA fishing activities in the NW Atlantic

Traditionally the Northwest Atlantic has been an important fishing region for the countries of the European Economic Area. From 1950, the earliest year for which data have been reported, the EEA catches increased from around 400 thousand tonnes to a maximum of 1.3 million tonnes in 1968 (see Fig. 1). Subsequently the catches declined rapidly until in 1978 they were only about one-sixth of those in 1968. This decline was due to the exclusion of the EEA vessels from fishing in the extended economic zones of the coastal states (notably Canada and the USA) and to the collapse of the major groundfish stocks in the region. This general trend of declining catches continued through to the end of the century when the EEA catches were only 75 thousand tonnes or 6% of the 1968 maximum.

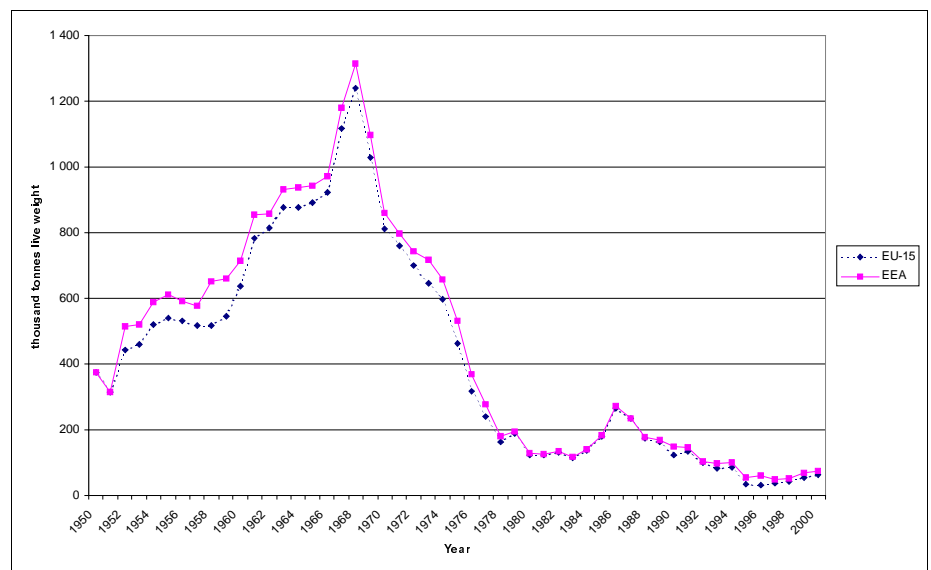


Figure 1: EEA catches in the NW Atlantic, 1950-2000

The relative importance of the NW Atlantic to EEA fisheries can be seen in Table 1 that compares the catches in the NW Atlantic with those in the other fishing areas exploited by EEA fishing vessels. In 1960's 10% of the mean annual EEA catch of 9.6 million tonnes was derived from the NW Atlantic whereas in the 1990's this had fallen to 1%. Despite the reduced level of catches from the Northwest Atlantic the annual total EEA catch in the 1990's increased by 15% to 11.1 million tonnes. The shortfall in catches from the NW Atlantic was made up largely by increased catches in the "near-water" regions (the Northeast Atlantic, the Eastern Central Atlantic and the Mediterranean) whose contribution to the total catch rose from 87% in 1960-69 to 96% in 1990-99.



FAO code	Region	1960-69 Catch	1960-69 %	1990-1999 Catch	1990-1999 %
	All areas	9 636 012	100	11 072 192	100
5	Inland	116 363	1	111 336	1
21	North-west Atlantic	980 419	10	87 342	1
27	North-east Atlantic	7 754 577	80	9 357 329	85
31	West-central Atlantic	-	-	2 333	0
34	East-central Atlantic	237 814	2	514 221	5
37	Mediterranean	452 669	5	637 979	6
41	South-west Atlantic	20	0	92 861	1
47	South-east Atlantic	94 150	1	34 008	0
51	Western Indian Ocean	-	-	210 104	2
57	Eastern Indian Ocean	-	-	3 066	0
71	East-central Pacific	-	-	6 216	0
81	South-west Pacific	-	-	8 363	0
87	South-east Pacific	-	-	3 548	0
48+58	Antarctic (total)	-	-	3 486	0

Table 1: Mean annual catches (tonnes) by EEA countries in 1960-69 and 1990-99

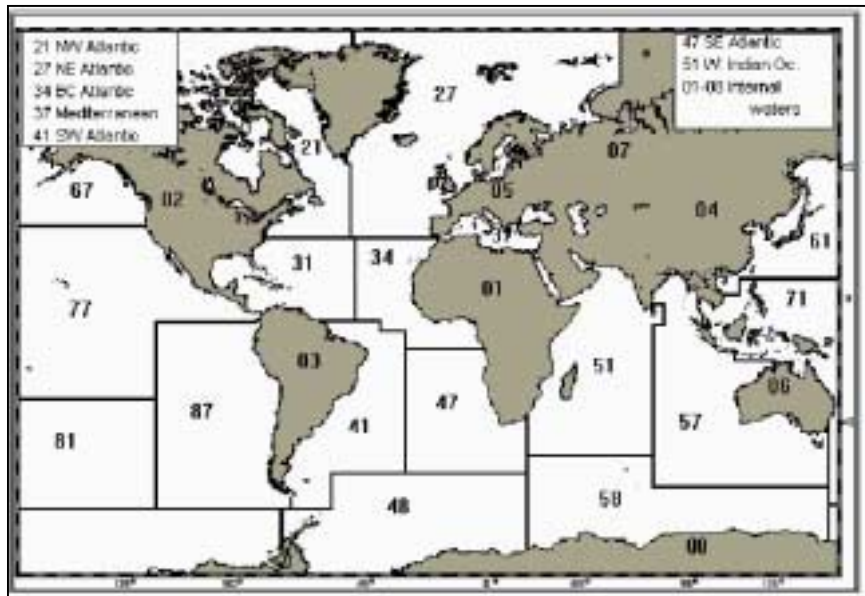


Figure 2: Map of major fishing areas

In the 1960's the major species targeted by EEA vessels in the NW Atlantic was the Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), the mean annual catch of which was 980 000 tonnes – 86% of the total catch. In 1990-1999, the mean annual catch of this species was only 12 000 tonnes – 13% of the total catch. This reduction was due to the collapse of the cod stocks and the moratorium on directed fisheries for the species. Indeed, in the later part of this period, the management measures have had a very drastic effect of the cod catches, with the reported catch of cod in 1999 being only 330 tonnes - less than 1% of the total catch from the region

In the period 1960-69 four EEA countries (Germany, France, Portugal and Spain) were responsible for 90% of the total catch in the Northwest Atlantic (see Table 2). The situation was rather different in the period 1990-99 where, with the total catch decreasing to only 9% of the 1960-69 value, only Portugal and Spain made major contributions to the total. France and Germany, the latter due principally to the removal of the vessels from the former German Democratic Republic from the German fleet, made much lower contributions to the total in 1990-99 than in the earlier period.

	1960-69		1990-99	
	Catch	%	Catch	%
EU	918 716	94	72 442	83
DK	41	0	957	1
D	280 970	29	4 547	5
E	244 631	25	35 896	41
F	142 958	15	23	0
I	660	0	0	0
NL	0	0	599	1
PT	207 895	21	30 150	35
UK	41 561	4	271	0
ISL	12 487	1	5 649	6
N	49 216	5	9 251	11
EEA	980 419	100	87 342	100

Table 2: EEA member country contributions to catches in the NW Atlantic

Slight increase in catches in 2000

Provisionally the EEA catches in the NW Atlantic in 2000 have been reported as 76 154 tonnes (see Table 3). This is 12% above the 68 081 tonnes recorded in 1999 and 56% above the minimum annual catch of 48 852 tonnes recorded in 1997. As such, although it is still only 51% of the catch recorded in 1990, it does indicate a general slight trend of improving catches.

Catches by country

Spain made by far the greatest contribution to the 2000 catch, 45 052 tonnes or 59% of the total. This country's catches have fluctuated in the period since 1990 from a low of 20 065 tonnes in 1995 to a high of 55 177 tonnes in 1992.

Portugal made the next highest contribution to the total in 2000, 12 837 tonnes or 17% of the total. However this country has suffered most in terms of declining catches in the period. From a maximum of 75 327 tonnes in 1991 there was a rapid decrease to 12 543 tonnes in 1995 followed by a period of relative stability.

France and Italy, formerly relatively prominent fishing nations in the NW Atlantic, have not fished in the region since at least 1992.

Germany's catches have decreased greatly since 1990. As has been mentioned above, this was due largely to the removal from the fleet of the ageing vessels of the former German Democratic Republic.

Norway's catches in the NW Atlantic have historically been subject to considerable variations and, although influenced by the state of the groundfish stocks and the associated management measures, the catches in the period since 1990 confirm this pattern.

Iceland's entry into the fisheries in 1993 is based on the development of a fishery for Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*).

Catches by species

As has been mentioned above, traditionally the Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) has been the major target species for EEA in the NW Atlantic but that catches have been drastically reduced due to the state of the stocks and the resultant drastic management measures. Fig.2 shows that even from the historically low level of catches (41 322 tonnes) in 1990, catches of cod have decreased further until in 2000 only 196 tonnes were reported.

With the reduction in catches of cod, the EEA catches are much more evenly distributed between four other species.

With the restrictions on fishing for cod, the Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) became the major target species for EEA vessels, mainly from Spain and Portugal (Table 5). The catch rose rapidly from 23 946 tonnes in 1990 to 50 129 tonnes in 1994. In 1995 strict management measures were introduced to protect the stock and accordingly catch decreased to 13 550 tonnes. A subsequent relaxation of these measures has permitted a trend for increasing catches - to 16 312 tonnes in 2000.

Atlantic redfishes (*Sebastes* spp) figured prominently in the catches in 2000. The catch of 14 958 tonnes was made almost equally by Germany, Portugal and Spain. However, this catch is only 57% of the 25 956 tonnes recorded in 1990. After 1990 the catches decreased rapidly to reach a minimum of 2 514 tonnes in 1997 and have subsequently recovered to their present level.

Skates (*Raja* spp) figure strongly in the EEA catches in 2000 - 14 747 tonnes or 19% of the total catch. These species are not currently subject to specific management measures and, since 1990, the catches have ranged from a maximum of 30 430 tonnes in 1991 to 5 375 tonnes in 1996. Since 1996 there is an indication of a trend for increasing catches. By far the most active EEA country in the fisheries for these species is Spain with a catch of 14 075 thousand tonnes or 95% of the total in 2000.

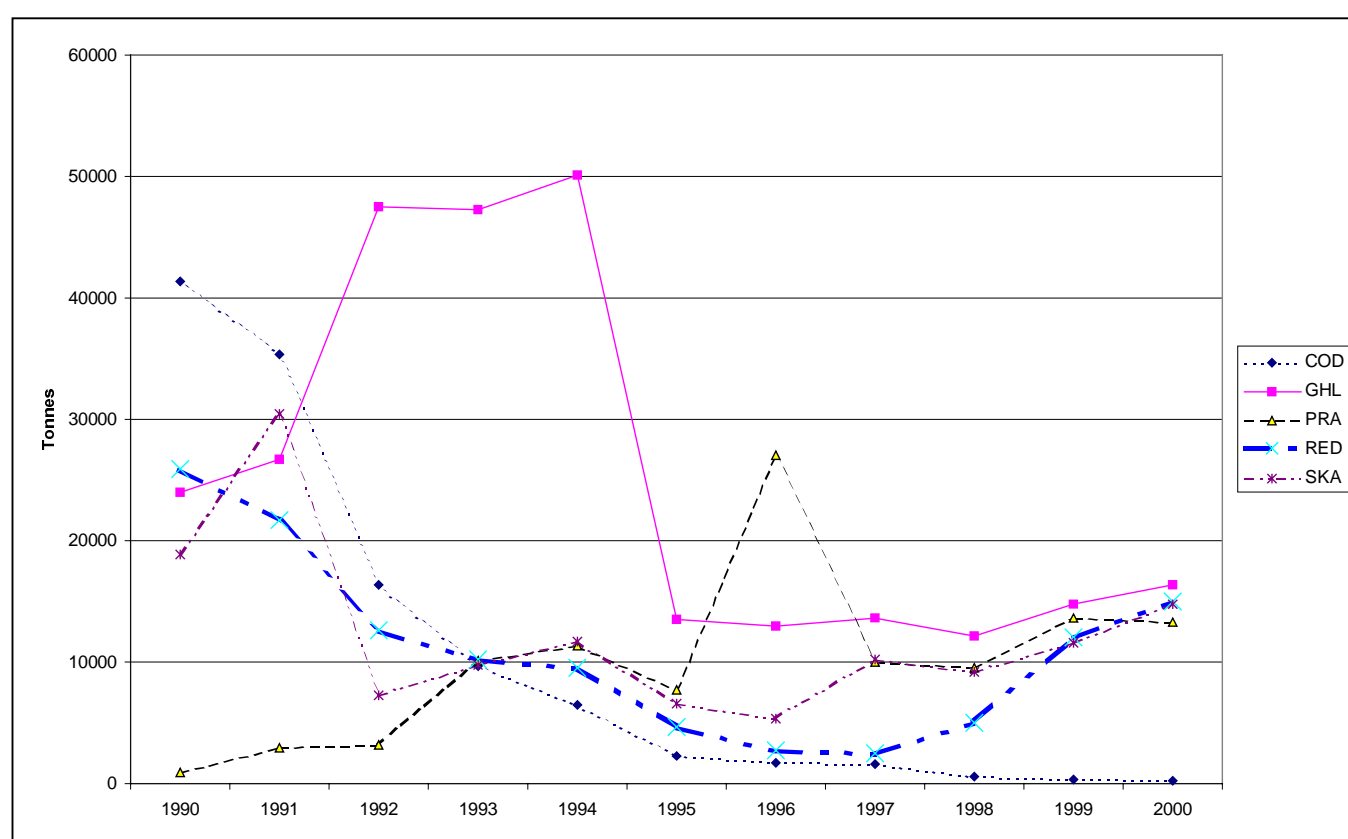


Figure 3: Catches of major species by EEA vessels in the NW Atlantic, 1990-2000 (tonnes)

The only non-fish species of importance in the EEA catches in the NW Atlantic is the Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*). The 13 255 tonnes caught in 2000, principally by Iceland and, to a lesser extent by Norway and Spain, was 17% of the total EEA catch in the region. In the early 1990's a new fishery was found for this species and the EEA catches rose to a maximum of 27 090 tonnes. At this time management measures were introduced and for the last four years the catch has remained in the range 10 042 to 13 613 tonnes.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
EU-15	121 479	134 697	100 452	84 167	84 897	33 055	31 046	37 842	42 090	54 595	62 809
DK	865	2 016	3 491	897	245	447	403	421	550	235	-
D	22 880	14 696	5 373	343	305	-	495	450	355	569	4 920
E	28 907	36 348	55 177	47 379	54 117	20 065	20 847	27 938	30 945	37 237	45 052
F	-	228	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NL	-	5 989	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	67 194	75 327	36 243	35 548	30 181	12 543	9 172	9 010	9 621	16 554	12 837
UK	1 633	93	168	-	49	-	129	23	619	-	-
ISL	-	-	-	2 196	2 462	8 232	20 682	7 197	6 572	9 147	9 361
N	26 821	11 004	2 549	9 844	11 753	12 017	7 669	3 813	2 693	4 339	3 984
EEA	148 300	145 701	103 001	96 207	99 112	53 304	59 397	48 852	51 355	68 081	76 154

Table 3: Catches by EEA countries in the NW Atlantic, 1990-2000 (tonnes)

3-alpha identifier	Species	EU-15			EEA		
		1990	1995	2000	1990	1995	2000
	Total fishery products	121 478	33 055	62 809	148 299	53 303	76 154
ALE	Alewife -	14	-	-	14		
ANG	American angler - <i>Lophius americanus</i>	192	-	3	192	-	3
ANT	Blue antimora - <i>Antimora rostrata</i>	-	-	21	-	-	21
BUT	Atlantic butterflyfish - <i>Peprilus triacanthus</i>	2	-	0	2		
CAA	Atlantic wolffish(=Catfish) - <i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	284	116	2	284	116	2
CAP	Capelin - <i>Mallotus villosus</i>	14	-	-	8 429	-	-
CAT	Wolffishes (=Catfishes) n.e.i - <i>Anarhichas</i> spp	2 345	1 553	580	2 345	1 553	580
CLT	Stimpson's surf clam - <i>Spisula polynyma</i>	-	-	-	6 282	-	-
COD	Atlantic cod - <i>Gadus morhua</i>	40 368	2 234	196	41 322	2 240	196
DGX	Dogfish sharks n.e.i. - <i>Squalidae</i>	-	-	493	-	-	493
FIN	Finfishes n.e.i. - <i>Osteichthyes</i>	349	87	68	349	91	71
FLX	Flatfishes n.e.i. - <i>Pleuronectiformes</i>	-	-	3	-	-	3
GHL	Greenland halibut - <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	12 913	11 077	14 668	23 946	13 559	16 312
GRO	Groundfishes n.e.i. - <i>Osteichthyes</i>	779	-		779	-	7
HAD	Haddock - <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	173	2	12	173	2	12
HAL	Atlantic halibut - <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	689	84	126	690	84	126
HKR	Red hake - <i>Urophycis chuss</i>	469	339	1 594	469	329	1 594
HKS	Silver hake - <i>Merluccius bilinearis</i>	865	-	5	865	-	5
HKW	White hake - <i>Urophycis tenuis</i>	248	38	802	248	38	802
LIN	Ling - <i>Molva molva</i>	-	-	-	129	-	-
MAC	Atlantic mackerel - <i>Scomber scombrus</i>	8 671	-	-	8 671	-	-
PLA	American plaice - <i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	1 111	724	1 836	1 114	724	1 836
POK	Pollock (= Saithe) - <i>Pollachius virens</i>	18	-	-	18	-	-
PRA	Northern prawn - <i>Pandalus borealis</i>	865	744	1 677	865	17 759	13 255
RED	Atlantic redfishes - <i>Sebastes</i> spp	25 955	3 926	14 845	25 956	4 677	14 958
RHG	Roughhead grenadier - <i>Macrourus berglax</i>	3 211	1 377	8 493	3 213	1 377	8 493
RNG	Roundnose grenadier - <i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	1	2 649		1	2 649	
SKA	Skates - <i>Raja</i> spp	18 879	6 572	14 747	18 879	6 572	14 747
SQI	Shortfin squid - <i>Illex illecebrosus</i>	206	-	-	206	-	-
WIT	Witch flounder - <i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	2 633	1 469	1 710	2 634	1 469	1 710
YEL	Yellow tail flounder - <i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	224	64	928	224	64	928

Table 4: Species caught by the EEA in the NW Atlantic (tonnes)

	Greenland halibut (GHL)	Northern prawn (PRA)	Atlantic redfishes (RED)	Skates (SKA)
EU-15	14 668	1 677	14 845	14 747
D	444	-	4 476	-
E	9 537	1 388	4 694	14 075
P	4 687	289	5 675	672
ISL	529	8 832	-	-
N	1 115	2 746	113	-
EEA	16 312	13 255	14 958	14 747

Table 5: Catches of major species by EEA member countries in 2000 (tonnes)

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The catch statistics for the years from 1993 have been submitted by the national authorities of the EEA member countries under the terms of the Council Regulation (EC) no 2018/93. This requirement corresponds to the Statlant 21A and Statlant 21B questionnaires of FAO and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO). The remaining data have been derived from national submissions of the above-mentioned Statlant questionnaires to NAFO and FAO.

The data for 2000 are provisional, submitted to Eurostat with a deadline of 31 May 2001. The remaining data are final and Eurostat gratefully acknowledges the collaboration with FAO and the NAFO Secretariats in compiling these data.

The member countries of the European Economic Area are the members of the European Union (EU-15) plus Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein. The latter has no marine fisheries.

The data for Germany for the whole period covered by this report include the data for the New Länder (the former German Democratic Republic).

The EU-15 data are for the 15 current Members States of the European Union, even for periods prior to their accession.

The data are expressed in the live weight equivalent of the landings. They are derived from the landed weight of the fishery products to which conversion factors have been applied. The data exclude all quantities caught but not landed.

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title Fisheries: Yearbook 2000
 Catalogue No KS-31-00-885-3A-C Price EUR 23.50

➤ Databases

New Cronos, Domain FISH

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

BELGIQUE/BELGIË	DANMARK	DEUTSCHLAND	ESPAÑA	FRANCE	ITALIA - Roma
Eurostat Data Shop Bruxelles/Brussel Planistat Belgique Rue du Commerce 124 Handelsstraat 124 B-1000 BRUXELLES / BRUSSEL Tel. (32-2) 234 67 50 Fax (32-2) 234 67 51 E-mail: datashop@planistat.be	DANMARKS STATISTIK Bibliotek og Information Eurostat Data Shop Sejrogade 11 DK-2100 KØBENHAVN Ø Tlf. (45) 3917 30 30 Fax (45) 39 17 30 03 E-mail: blb@dst.dk	STATISTISCHES BUNDESAMT Eurostat Data Shop Berlin Otto-Braun-Straße 70-72 (Eingang: Karl-Marx-Allee) D-1 0178 BERLIN Tel. (49) 1888 644 94 27/28 Fax (49) 1888-644 94 30 E-Mail: datashop@statistik-bund.de	INE Eurostat Data Shop Paseo de la Castellana, 183 Oficina 009 Entrada por Estébanez Calderón E-28046 MADRID Tel. (34) 91 583 91 67 Fax (34) 91 579 71 20 E-mail: datashop.eurostat@ine.es	INSEE Info Service Eurostat Data Shop 195, rue de Bercy Tour Gamma A F-75582 PARIS CEDEX 12 Tél. (33) 1 53 17 8844 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 31 02/06 Fax (39) 06 46 73 31 01/07 E-mail: dipdiff@istat.it
ITALIA - Milano	LUXEMBOURG	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	Eurostat Data Shop Luxembourg BP 453 L-2014 LUXEMBOURG 4, rue Alphonse Weicker L-2721 LUXEMBOURG Tél. (352) 43 35-2251 Fax (352) 43 35-2221 E-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu	STATISTICS NETHERLANDS 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	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	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: data.shop@ine.pt	Statistisches Amt des Kantons Zürich, Eurostat Data Shop Bleicherweg 5 CH-8090 Zürich Tel. (41-1) 225 12 12 Fax (41-1) 225 12 99 E-mail: datashop@statistik.zh.ch Internet: http://www.zh.ch/statistik
SUOMI/FINLAND	SVERIGE	UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
STATISTICS FINLAND Eurostat Data Shop Helsinki Tilastokivasto PL 25 FIN-00022 Tilastokeskus Työväentalu 13 B, 2.Kerros, Helsinki P. (358-9) 17 34 22 21 F. (358-9) 17 34 22 79 Sähköposti: datashop.tilastokeskus@tilastokeskus.fi Internet: http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/tilastokeskus.htm	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 Internet: http://www.scb.se/info/datashop	Eurostat Data Shop Enquiries & advice and publications Office for National Statistics Customers & Electronic Services Unit 1 Drummond Gate - B1/05 LONDON SW1V 2QQ United Kingdom Tel. (44-20) 75 33 56 76 Fax (44-1633) 81 27 62 E-mail: euostat.datashop@ons.gov.uk	Eurostat Data Shop Electronic Data Extractions, Enquiries & advice - R.CADE 1L Mounjoo Research Centre University of Durham DURHAM DH1 3SW United Kingdom Tel: (44-191) 374 73 50 Fax: (44-191) 384 49 71 E-mail: rcade@dur.ac.uk Internet: http://www.rcade.dur.ac.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: eurodata@haver.com	

Media Support Eurostat (for professional journalists only):
 Bech Building Office A3/48 - L-2920 Luxembourg - Tel. (352) 4301 33408 - Fax (352) 4301 32649 - e-mail: euostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int

For information on methodology

David Cross, Eurostat/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
 Internet Address <http://eur-op.eu.int/tf/general/s-ad.htm>
 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 - BALGARİJA - CESKÁ REPUBLIKA - CYPRUS
 EESTI - HRVATSKA - MAGYARORSZÁG - MALTA - POLSKA - ROMÂNIA - RUSSIA - SLOVAKIA - SLOVENIA - TÜRKİYE - AUSTRALIA - CANADA - EGYPT - INDIA
 ISRAËL - JAPAN - MALAY SIA - PHILIPPINES - SOUTH KOREA - THAILAND - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Order form

I would like to subscribe to Statistics in focus (from 1.1.2001 to 31.12.2001):
 (for the Data Shop and sales office addresses see above)

Formula 1: All 9 themes (approximately 140 issues)

Paper: EUR 360
 Language required: DE EN FR

Formula 2: One or more of the following seven themes:

- Theme 1 'General statistics'
 Paper: EUR 42
 - Theme 2 'Economy and finance'
 - Theme 3 'Population and social conditions'
 - Theme 4 'Industry, trade and services'
 - Theme 5 'Agriculture and fisheries'
 - Theme 6 'External trade'
 - Theme 8 'Environment and energy'
 Paper: EUR 84
- 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.