

THE EU-25 FISHING FLEET IN 2005

Statistics
in focus

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THE EU-25 FISHING FLEET IN 2005

In 2005 the EU-25 fishing fleet consisted of 89 373 vessels with a total tonnage of more than 2 million tonnes and a total engine power of 7.3 million KW (Table 1).

There were 83 677 EU-15 vessels in 2005.

EU-15 fleet in constant decline since 2000

From 2000 to 2005, numbers of vessels fell sharply in the Netherlands (-24.6%), Denmark (-20.9%), Sweden (-18.7%), Spain (-17.9%) and Italy (-16.8%) (see Table 1).

In the same period, tonnage decreased in the Netherlands (-19.1%), Finland (-17.7%), the United Kingdom (-17.5%), Denmark (-14.4%), Greece (-13.4%) and Sweden (-12.9%), but continued to increase in Ireland (28.5%).

The engine power of vessels also fell in the Netherlands (-23.1%), Denmark (-17.0%), Spain (-15.6%), Greece (-13.8%), Finland (-13.2%) and Italy (-12.0%), but rose in Belgium (3.4%) and Ireland (1.9%).

Most vessels owned by the southern Member States of EU-25

In 2005, Greece had the largest number of fishing vessels: 18 275, or 20.4% of the EU-25 total — the same percentage as in 2004. Next came Italy with 16.2% of the EU-25 total, Spain with 15.3% and Portugal with 11.1%.

Small vessels dominate the EU-25 fleet, with 81% less than 12 metres long

In 2005, for EU-15 and the countries which joined the EU in 2004, 81% of all vessels measured less than 12 metres (see Tables 2 and 3).

Of these countries, Finland, Greece, Malta, Cyprus and Portugal had fleets in which over 90% of vessels were inshore fishing boats less than 12 metres long. Longer vessel classes predominated only in Belgium and the Netherlands.

In EU-25, 1% of vessels were more than 36 metres long. The EU-15 countries and the Member States which acceded in 2004 showed equivalent percentages of large vessels. The total number of vessels of over 36 metres in EU-25 fell from 1020 in 2004 to 967 in 2005, however — a drop of 5%.

The number of vessels less than 36 metres long fell by 3% between 2004 and 2005 (88 406 in 2005, compared with 91 402 in 2004). In percentage terms, therefore, numbers of large vessels declined more sharply than numbers of smaller vessels from 2004 to 2005.

Tonnage in these groups of countries followed a similar pattern.



Table 1: EU-25 fishing fleet in 2000 and 2005

Country	Total number		Total tonnage		Total power (kW)		% variation between 2000 and 2005		
	2000	2005	2000	2005	2000	2005	Number	Tonnage	Power
BE	127	121	23 054	22 686	63 502	65 643	-4.7	-1.6	3.4
DK	4 139	3 274	107 471	91 961	393 373	326 368	-20.9	-14.4	-17.0
DE	2 315	2 121	71 168	64 075	167 744	159 299	-8.4	-10.0	-5.0
EL	19 962	18 275	107 407	93 012	623 043	536 942	-8.5	-13.4	-13.8
ES	16 678	13 691	521 838	487 397	1 332 708	1 124 323	-17.9	-6.6	-15.6
FR	8 181	7 859	224 077	215 116	1 108 229	1 070 040	-3.9	-4.0	-3.4
IE	1 615	1 411	68 282	87 753	211 894	215 961	-12.6	28.5	1.9
IT	17 369	14 459	232 467	213 231	1 394 483	1 226 763	-16.8	-8.3	-12.0
NL	1 101	830	212 466	171 988	522 305	401 508	-24.6	-19.1	-23.1
PT	10 692	9 955	117 313	108 697	397 326	384 292	-6.9	-7.3	-3.3
FI	3 663	3 267	20 819	17 126	197 703	171 634	-10.8	-17.7	-13.2
SE	2 016	1 640	51 394	44 778	244 610	221 908	-18.7	-12.9	-9.3
UK	7 643	6 774	265 145	218 713	974 901	882 326	-11.4	-17.5	-9.5
EU-15	95 501	83 677	2 022 901	1 836 533	7 631 821	6 787 007	-12.4	-9.2	-11.1
EE	-	1 045	-	24 216	-	61 987	-	-	-
CY	-	887	-	9 121	-	47 380	-	-	-
LV	-	928	-	38 541	-	66 194	-	-	-
LT	-	272	-	64 404	-	70 651	-	-	-
MT	-	1 421	-	19 006	-	102 112	-	-	-
PL	-	974	-	30 260	-	105 347	-	-	-
SI	-	169	-	1 060	-	10 966	-	-	-
EU-25	-	89 373	-	2 023 141	-	7 251 644	-	-	-

Source: EUROSTAT

Table 2: Numbers of fishing vessels in EU-25 by length class, 2005

Country	Length class (metres)										% under 12 m
	Unknown	0 - 5.9	6 - 11.9	12 - 17.9	18 - 23.9	24 - 29.9	30 - 35.9	36 - 41.9	42 or over	TOTAL	
BE	-	-	1	11	45	6	27	31	-	121	0.8
DK	-	1 158	1 328	467	160	40	50	42	29	3 274	75.9
DE	-	922	810	226	99	23	15	12	14	2 121	81.7
EL	-	6 829	10 318	610	285	184	38	8	3	18 275	93.8
ES	16	5 491	4 583	1 496	1 015	557	279	118	136	13 691	73.6
FR	-	1 122	5 315	649	499	157	50	20	47	7 859	81.9
IE	-	250	775	124	127	63	37	15	20	1 411	72.6
IT	-	3 175	6 632	2 968	1 092	456	88	19	29	14 459	67.8
NL	-	122	149	52	201	61	59	118	68	830	32.7
PT	-	5 282	3 801	446	189	145	58	9	25	9 955	91.2
FI	-	1 559	1 574	89	24	7	9	5	-	3 267	95.9
SE	-	217	1 118	161	61	22	27	23	11	1 640	81.4
UK	-	1 703	3 916	532	298	153	57	61	54	6 774	82.9
EU-15	16	27 830	40 320	7 831	4 095	1 874	794	481	436	83 677	81.4
EE	-	442	421	91	3	72	4	1	11	1 045	82.6
CY	-	102	716	35	22	10	1	-	1	887	92.2
LV	-	495	252	42	7	114	7	-	11	928	80.5
LT	-	117	85	7	1	40	4	2	16	272	74.3
MT	-	732	579	69	29	7	1	1	3	1 421	92.3
PL	-	71	599	164	41	91	4	1	3	974	68.8
SI	-	77	68	20	2	2	-	-	-	169	85.8
EU-25	16	29 866	43 040	8 259	4 200	2 210	815	486	481	89 373	81.6

Source: EUROSTAT

Table 3: Numbers of fishing vessels in EU-25 by tonnage class, 2005

Country	Tonnage class (tonnes)										% under 25 tonnes
	Unknown	0 - 24.9	25 - 49.9	50 - 99.9	100 - 149.9	150 - 249.9	250 - 499.9	500 - 999.9	1000 - 1999.9	2000 or over	
BE	-	4	10	32	18	13	44	-	-	121	3.3
DK	-	2 741	195	145	40	58	70	17	7	3 274	83.7
DE	-	1 809	170	58	21	32	21	-	5	2 121	85.3
EL	-	17 668	241	196	103	48	17	2	-	18 275	96.7
ES	-	11 156	725	777	253	347	289	84	38	13 691	81.5
FR	7	6 584	337	388	256	192	52	14	18	7 859	83.8
IE	-	1 062	67	77	66	74	39	15	10	1 411	75.3
IT	-	12 369	893	754	249	162	25	6	-	14 459	85.5
NL	-	315	91	138	47	96	103	25	2	830	38.0
PT	-	9 417	181	125	52	115	42	8	12	9 955	94.6
FI	-	3 177	49	22	4	7	8	-	-	3 267	97.2
SE	-	1 390	80	62	31	29	36	12	-	1 640	84.8
UK	-	5 726	312	223	163	173	125	20	22	6 774	84.5
EU-15	7	73 418	3 351	2 997	1 303	1 346	871	203	114	83 677	87.7
EE	-	945	10	38	34	5	2	5	6	1 045	90.4
CY	-	847	13	11	14	1	-	-	1	887	95.5
LV	-	757	33	54	65	7	1	3	5	928	81.6
LT	-	209	-	13	28	4	2	2	1	272	76.8
MT	-	1 366	28	15	3	5	1	-	3	1 421	96.1
PL	-	706	147	48	44	23	3	-	2	974	72.5
SI	-	163	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	169	96.4
EU-25	7	78 411	3 585	3 177	1 491	1 393	880	213	128	89 373	87.7

Source: EUROSTAT

Median age of fishing vessels 23.9 years for EU-15 and 20 years for EU-25 in 2005

The fishing fleets of the countries which joined the EU in 2004 are slightly newer, with a median age of 20.0 years in 2005 compared with the median age of 23.9 recorded in the EU-15 countries (see Table 4).

Four out of seven countries outside EU-15 had vessels with a median age of less than 20 years in

2005. In EU-25, 70% of vessels had a median age of less than 30 years, and 55% a median age of less than 25 years.

For EU-25, the median age for northern Member States was 26.5, and for southern Member States 23.7.

Table 4: Numbers of fishing vessels in EU-25 by age class, 2005

Country	Age class								Median age (in years)
	Unknown	0 - 4.9	5 - 9.9	10 - 14.9	15 - 19.9	20 - 24.9	25 or over	TOTAL	
BE		5	20	13	28	22	33	121	17.8
DK		137	128	243	379	445	1 942	3 274	46.7
DE	1 194	90	62	77	112	137	449	2 121	24.7
EL		1 352	1 804	1 875	2 327	3 419	7 498	18 275	23.8
ES		1 409	1 513	865	1 450	1 563	6 891	13 691	27.1
FR		957	902	839	1 617	1 233	2 311	7 859	17.7
IE	8	87	64	41	201	277	733	1 411	31.9
IT	2 562	485	945	919	1 697	1 680	6 171	14 459	32.8
NL		67	107	113	161	90	292	830	16.9
PT		1 072	1 267	516	537	979	5 584	9 955	45.7
FI		193	202	542	692	652	986	3 267	23.0
SE	4	57	71	90	201	316	901	1 640	37.9
UK	163	649	748	662	1 267	865	2 420	6 774	19.7
EU-15	3 931	6 560	7 833	6 795	10 669	11 678	36 211	83 677	23.9
EE		102	95	233	250	163	202	1 045	12.9
CY		48	135	124	142	111	327	887	19.6
LV		33	72	196	179	146	302	928	18.8
LT		10	21	22	47	51	121	272	24.2
MT		182	215	237	168	122	497	1 421	16.7
PL		52	75	114	144	96	493	974	26.4
SI	5	9	3	3	25	25	99	169	46.6
EU-25	3 936	6 996	8 449	7 724	11 624	12 392	38 252	89 373	20.0

Source: EUROSTAT

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Eurostat keeps a register of fishing vessels which is updated each year for the EU Member States using extracts from the **Community** fishing fleet register, maintained by the Directorate-General for Fisheries under the terms of Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004 (situation at 31 December of the reference year).

The length of a vessel is its overall length, the tonnage is its gross tonnage and the power is its total maximum continuous power, as defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2930/86.

The unit for measuring the tonnage of vessels changed recently from gross registered tonnage (Oslo Convention) to gross tonnage (London Convention). This change, involving the re-measurement of all vessels, was time-consuming. Although the process is now virtually complete, care should be taken when comparing data between countries and within a country over time.

The country codes used in the tables are as follows:

BE Belgium – CY Cyprus – DE Germany – DK Denmark – EE Estonia – EL Greece – ES Spain – FI Finland – FR France – IE Ireland – IT Italy – LT Lithuania – LV Latvia – MT Malta – NL Netherlands – PL Poland – PT Portugal – SE Sweden – SI Slovenia

– UK United Kingdom The EU-15 Member States are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The EU-25 Member States are the EU-15 countries plus Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. The Baltic States are: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The Mediterranean countries are: Cyprus and Malta.

Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Luxembourg and Slovakia have no maritime fishing fleets.

The data for France include the vessels of the French overseas departments.

Median age of a vessel:

the median is defined as the value of the variable where the total number of units corresponding to values of the variable below the median is equal to the total number of units corresponding to values of the variable above the median.

Further information:

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Agriculture, forestry and fisheries/Fisheries/Fishing fleet](#)

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