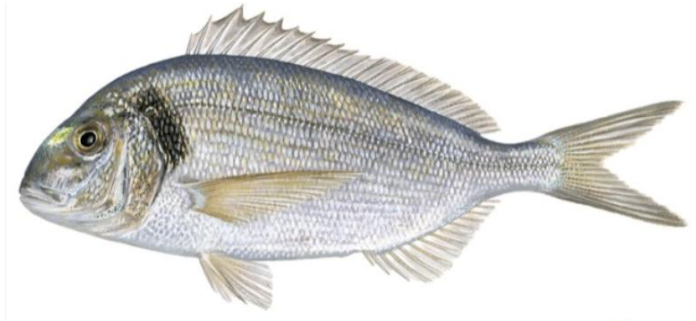




GILTHEAD SEABREAM (*SPARUS AURATA*)



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BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

- **Species description** ([Read more](#))

Gilthead seabream belongs to the family of *Sparidae*.

- **Geographical distribution and habitat** ([Read more](#))

Gilthead seabream lives in the Northeast and Eastern Central Atlantic, in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea as well as in Europe inland waters (i.e. coastal lagoons and saltwater ponds).

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Stock and resource status/conservation measures** ([Read more](#))

Minimum conservation reference size is established at 20 cm in the Mediterranean fishing areas (i.e. fishing areas Western Mediterranean (37.1), Central Mediterranean (37.2) and Eastern Mediterranean (37.3)).

- **Production methods and fishing gears** ([Read more](#))

The main fishing gears used are gillnets and similar nets, hooks and lines, pots and traps, seines and trawls. The species is also massively produced in aquaculture, mostly in sea cages.

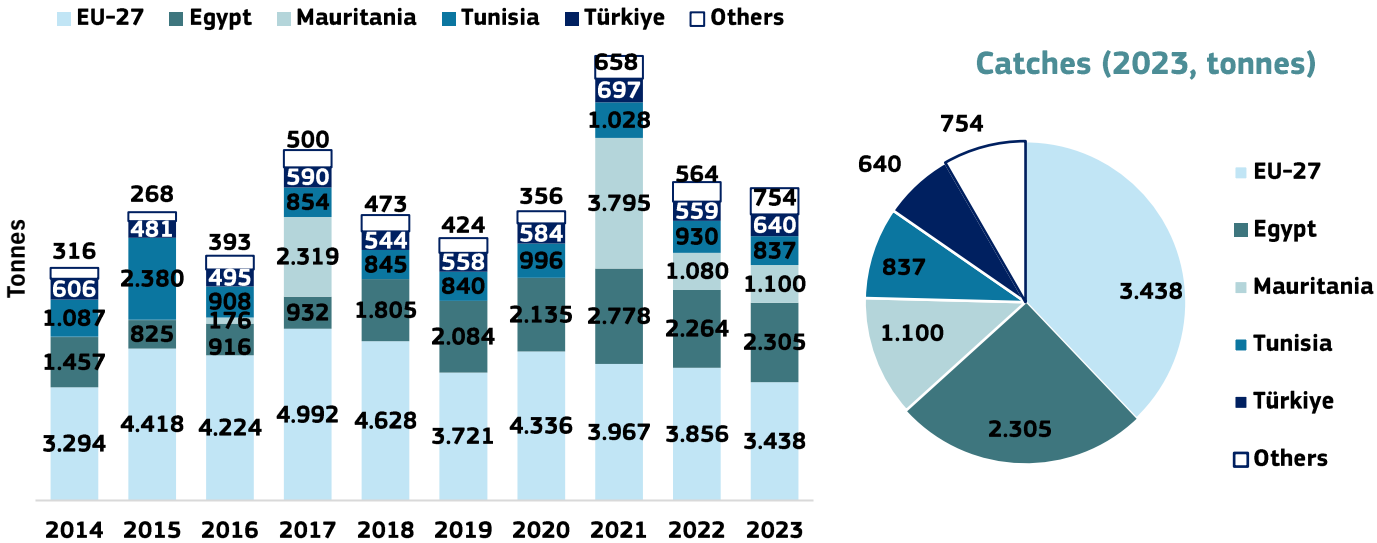
Source: [Information system on commercial designations](#)



CATCHES

Evolution of world catches

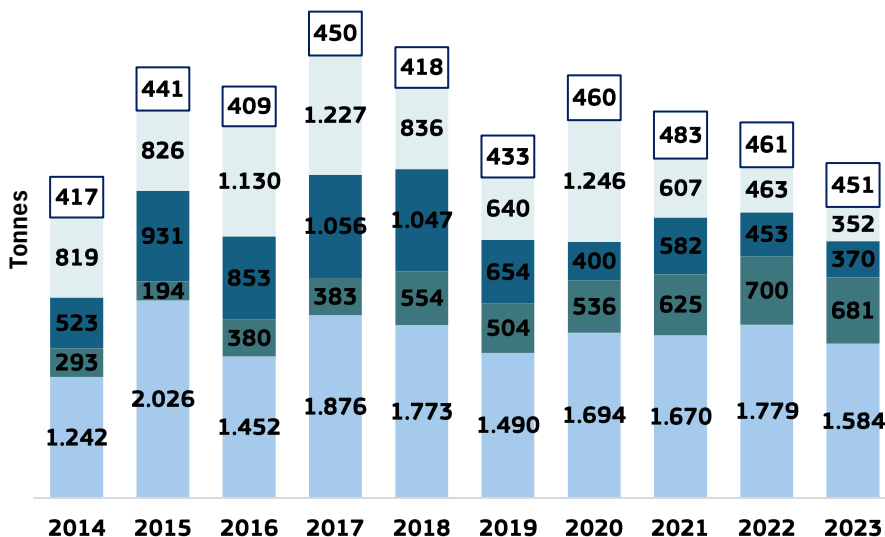
- Global seabream catches was estimated at 9.074 tonnes in 2023, i.e. **0,01%** of total global catches.
- Main producers were the EU-27, Egypt, Mauritania and Tunisia. They contributed to 85% of the global production. The production peaked in 2021, driven by the increase of the Mauritanian production before decreasing again in 2022 and 2023.



Evolution of EU catches

Source: FAO

- The EU provided **38%** of the global seabream catches in 2023, reaching more than 3.400 tonnes. Main EU producers were France, Greece, Italy, and Spain (they together contributed to 87% of EU catches).



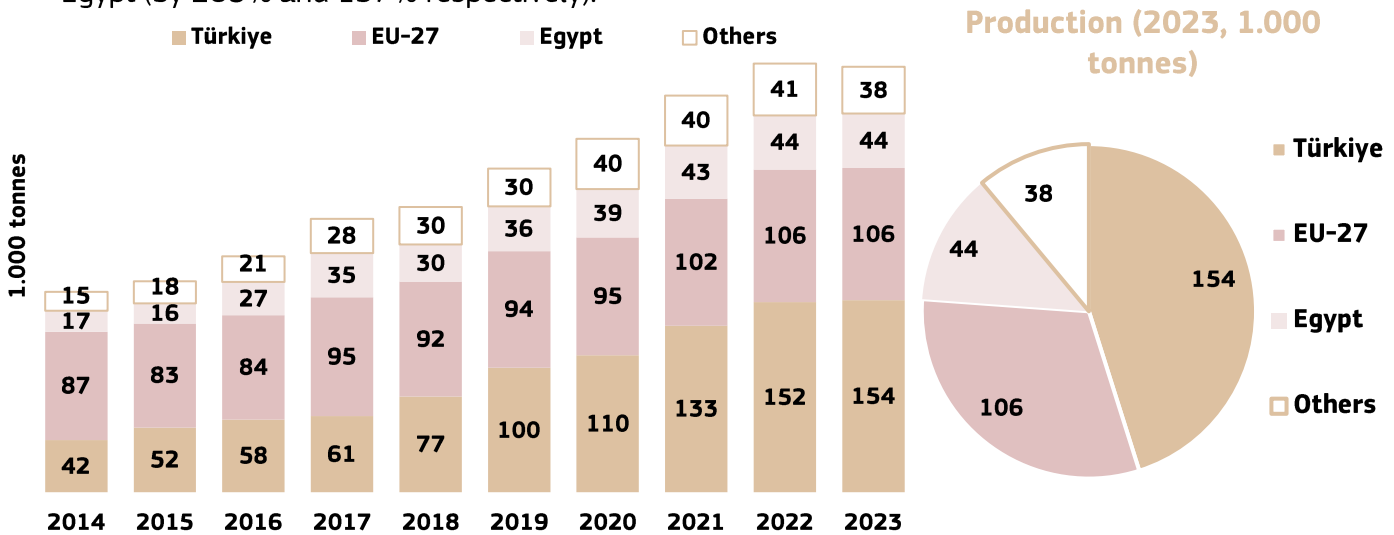
Source: FAO



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

Evolution of world production

More than 341.000 tonnes of gilthead seabream were produced globally in 2023. The world production of gilthead seabream has more than doubled in the last ten years (112% from 2014 to 2023). The growth was particularly significant for non-EU countries, mainly Turkey and Egypt (by 268% and 157% respectively).

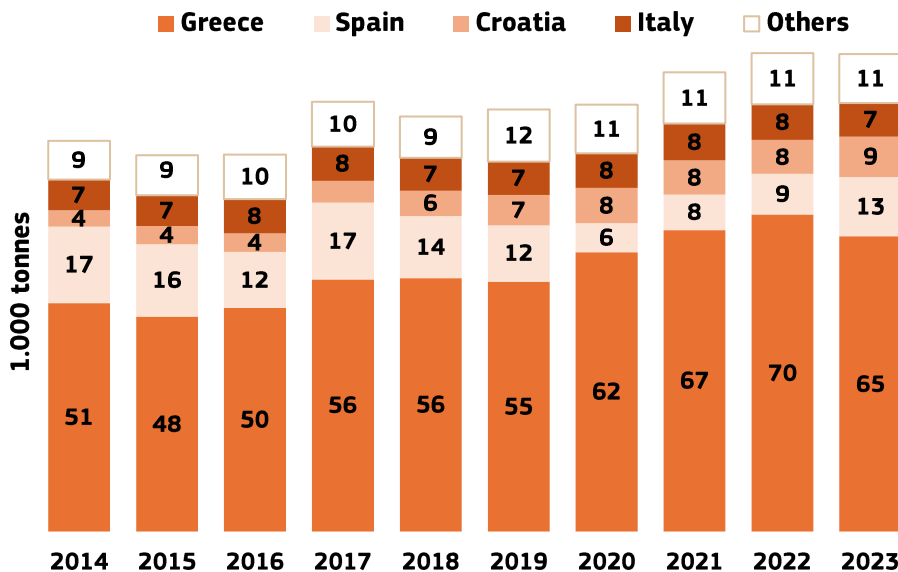


Source : FAO

Evolution of EU production

In 2023, the EU provided 31% of the global production of gilthead seabream. Greece was by far the main producer (with 62% of the total EU production).

The EU production has increased by 22% over the last decade (2014-2023), driven the development of the Greek production, which peaked in 2022, before decreasing in 2023.



Source : FAO

Gilthead seabream



PROCESSING

There is no significant processing activity of gilthead seabream as the species is mainly consumed fresh.



TRADE

EU imports-exports (2024, EU-27)

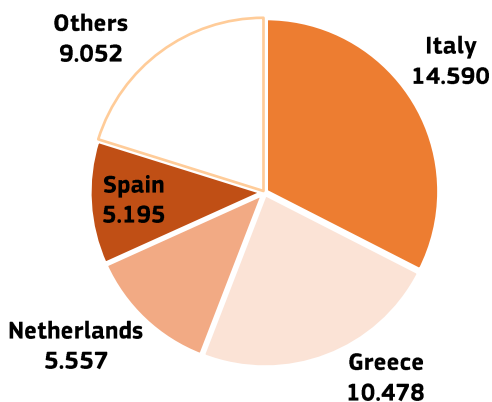
- Combined nomenclature ([Read more](#))

EU trade of gilthead products (tonnes - 2024)

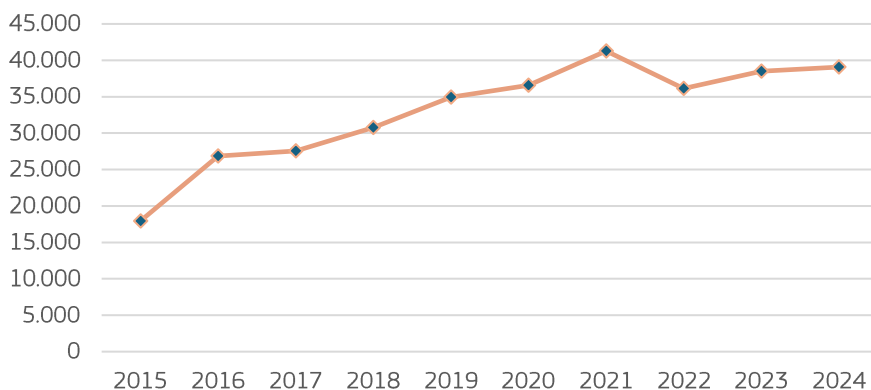
CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 02 85 30	Gilthead sea seabream, fresh or chilled	42.964	8.378
03 03 89 55	Gilthead seabream, frozen	1.907	170
Total		44.871	8.548

- **Extra-EU imports** of gilthead seabream reached over 44.800 tonnes in 2024, mostly fresh (98% of EU imports in 2024). Main importers were Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, and Spain (33%, 23%, 12% and 12% respectively). Turkey was by far the main supplier of the EU market (88% of the EU imports). Almost all fresh gilthead seabream came from Turkey. Imports from Turkey reached a peak in 2021 and decreased in 2022 (by 12% between 2021 and 2022). Overall they have increased by 118% between 2015 and 2024.

EU importers (2024, tonnes)



EU imports of fresh gilthead seabream from Turkey (in tonnes)

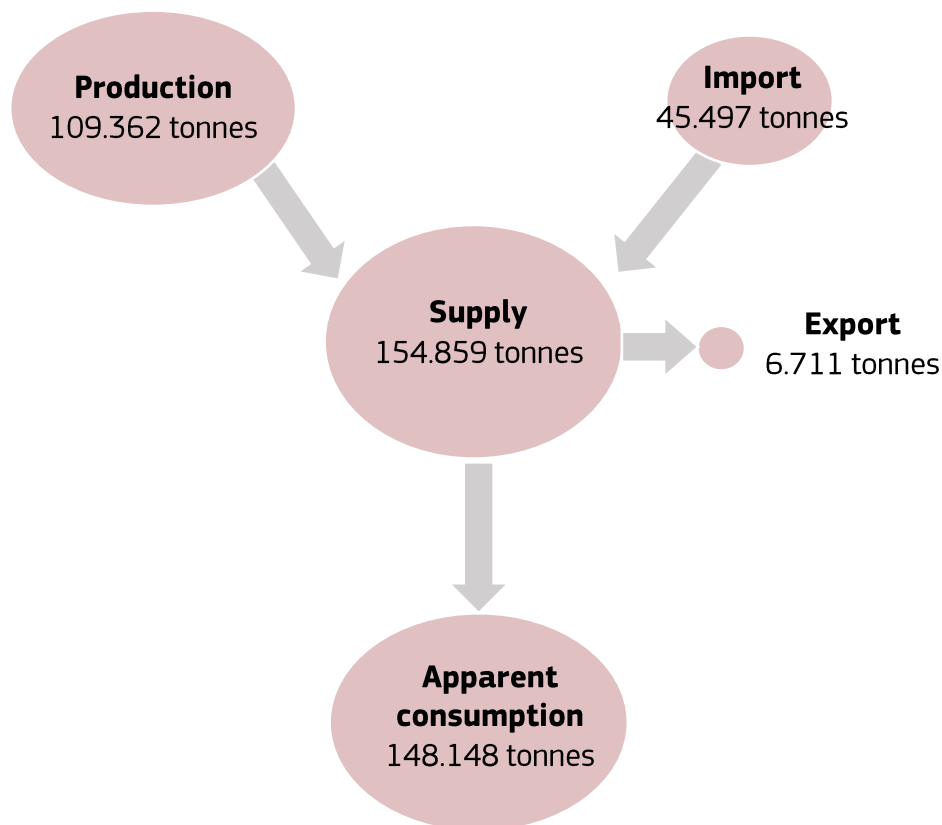


- **Extra-EU exports** of gilthead seabream reached over 8.500 tonnes in 2024, almost all fresh. Main exporters were Greece and Cyprus, and main destinations were Israel and Switzerland (54% and 13% respectively).



Supply balance

EU supply balance (2023¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Gilthead seabream



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ Supply balance is provided for the year 2023 (trade data for 2023 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slide 5 concern the year 2024.

² The [conversion factors](#) were used to convert net weight of imports and exports of fishery and aquaculture products into live weight equivalents.



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

When data is available, prices are provided for wild and farmed seabream, as significant price difference could be noticed between the two methods of production.

First-sale (wild) / Ex-farm (farmed) – fresh

First-sale and ex-farm prices are provided for France, Greece, Croatia, Italy and Spain, which are among the main EU producers of seabream.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
France (wild, fresh whole)	13,78	13,35	13,49	13,74	13,29	15,13	15,72	15,35	14,99	16,11	EUMOFA
Italy (wild, fresh whole)	12,04	11,71	12,37	12,39	12,30	11,81	12,58	12,70	13,45	13,77	EUMOFA
Spain (wild, fresh whole)	12,16	11,52	12,80	12,62	10,95	13,87	14,37	14,93	14,98	14,67	EUMOFA
Greece (farmed)	4,88	4,62	4,47	4,56	4,66	4,39	5,74	4,89	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Croatia (farmed)	6,53	6,45	5,88	5,77	5,94	6,04	6,63	7,08	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Spain (farmed)	5,60	5,20	5,07	5,11	5,59	7,55	5,39	5,19	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Italy (farmed)	7,09	7,67	7,62	7,35	7,45	6,48	7,56	7,85	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA

* From January to September 2025

Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are presented for France and Spain.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
France (wild, 0,8-1 kg)	13,24	14,98	13,72	13,93	15,47	12,21	24,65	19,94	19,42	20,09	RNM-Rungis
France (farmed, 0,8-1 kg)	8,52	8,31	8,77	9,5	9,63	8,98	12,14	11,56	12,65	12,17	RNM-Rungis
Spain (farmed)	5,94	5,36	5,49	5,26	2,24	5,12	5,8	5,62	6,44	7,43	Mercamadrid
Spain (wild)	16,99	15,85	18,94	18,43	18,3	20,04	21,67	21,58	24,70	20,27	Mercamadrid

* From January to October 2025



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Retail/consumption (fresh)

Retail prices refer to Greece, Spain, and Italy, which are among the major EU consumers of seabream.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Spain	7,9	7,97	7,88	7,81	7,86	7,84	8,27	9,00	10,06	n.a.	MAPA
Italy - fresh, 400-600g	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7,83	8,27	8,27	9,05	9,36	9,43	9,46	ISMEA
Italy - fresh, 600-800g	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,74	9,04	9,04	10,48	10,74	10,90	10,90	ISMEA

* From January to October 2025

Extra-EU import (fresh from Turkey)

Import prices are provided for Italy, Greece, Spain, and Netherlands which are the main importers of fresh seabream from Turkey.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Italy	3,97	4,01	3,61	3,75	3,81	3,78	4,48	4,47	5,71	6,24	EUMOFA
Greece	3,84	3,71	3,53	3,44	3,54	3,46	4,03	4,15	5,16	5,77	EUMOFA
Spain	4,4	4,26	3,86	3,77	3,91	3,90	4,61	4,42	5,56	6,20	EUMOFA
Netherlands	4,35	4,42	4,13	4,09	4,10	3,96	4,88	4,86	5,88	6,55	EUMOFA

* From January to September 2025

Extra –EU export (fresh)

Export prices refer to Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Spain and France, as they were the main exporters of seabream to third countries in 2024.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Greece	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5,52	5,83	5,70	6,34	8,60	9,08	EUMOFA
Cyprus	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5,10	6,46	7,70	8,30	7,82	8,10	EUMOFA
Italy	6,3	5,85	5,52	6,16	6,24	9,93	7,55	8,61	10,49	10,10	EUMOFA
Spain	5,16	4,87	8,27	8,5	10,56	10,93	16,79	11,86	15,66	15,48	EUMOFA
France	8,37	9,68	9,49	10,03	10,94	14,73	12,78	12,96	13,23	12,67	EUMOFA

* From January to September 2025



MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#))
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more](#))
- Applicable marketing standard ([Read more](#))

CONSUMPTION

- Gilthead seabream is the 15th most consumed species in EU (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2025 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption per capita of gilthead seabream in 2023: **0,33 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [Supply balance – 2023](#), EUMOFA).
- Nutritional value (Gilthead seabream, France, fresh fillet, values per 100 g – source : NUTRAQUA/AQUIMER)

Nutritional value	Gilthead seabream
kilo calories (kcal)	128
Kilojoule (kJ)	537
Water (g)	72,7
Ashes (g)	1,4
Proteins (g)	20,8
Carbohydrates (g)	0,3
Lipids (g)	4,8
Cholesterol (mv)	63,5
Omega 6 (mg)	425
Omega 3 (mg)	1239
EPA (mg)	327
DHA (mg)	555