COVID-19 impact on seafood imports and exports
May 2020

This briefing provides a summary of the impact of COVID-19 on seafood trade from an import and export perspective. It will be updated when further information is available.

Summary

• Given the global nature of trade, varied lengths of the supply chains etc., it is impossible to predict how trade will be affected. Whilst the transportation of goods has been exempt from border closures, three key trading issues have been identified from seafood businesses:
  o The cancellation of orders, particularly countries in “lock down”, because wholesalers / restaurants are closed.
  o Availability of ships and containers. Many are becoming delayed, redirected or even quarantined at borders around the world. This is leading to very expensive shipping costs.
  o Workforce availability in affected countries.

• These factors have affected trade and in the first quarter of 2020, the UK’s total seafood trade has decreased in terms of value and volume, whilst the average £/kg has fallen: £1,182m (-11.2%), 273k t (-9.9%), £4.32/kg (-1.5%) respectively.

• The UK had stockpiles of frozen raw material from imported sources that helped ease some of those product flows. However species that are traded chilled, flown into the UK were most affected. Seafood import value and volume decreased, whilst the average price rose: £797m (-7.4%), 164k t (-8.9%), £4.85/kg (+1.6%) respectively.

• Hardest hit are exports, which directly impacts on UK fishers and traders. The overnight loss of major export routes has had an immediate stop on trade, particularly as much of this is chilled product with no immediate alternative exports routes available. Seafood exports have decreased across all measures: £385m (-18.2%), 109k t (-11.3%), £3.53/kg (-7.8%) respectively.
Seafood imports

Overall seafood imports have decreased value and volume, however a higher average £/kg was recorded: £797m (-7.4%), 164k t (-8.9%), £4.85/kg (+1.6%). This fall in imports occurred every month in Q1, whilst the average price per kg became lower level than last year in March.

Importing countries

The countries that imported the largest value of seafood into the UK were: Sweden, Iceland and China.

Four countries improved their value ranking >2 positions: Turkey, Sweden, Canada, and Ecuador. Whilst two countries lost >2 positions: France and Netherlands.

Import value and volume increased with six out of the top 20 countries. These were: Sweden, India, U.S.A., Ecuador, Canada, and Turkey. Whilst import value and volume decreased from Iceland, China, Faroe Islands, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Vietnam, Netherlands, Spain, France, Honduras, and Mauritius.

In comparison to last year, the countries that increased their value imports of seafood the most were: Sweden, Canada, Iceland, China, Turkey, Bangladesh, U.S.A., China, India, and Poland.

Imported species

The species with the greatest import value remain salmon, cod and tuna. Two species improved their value ranking 2 positions: nephrops and scallops, whilst only crabs lost 2 positions.

Only salmon and nephrops increased their volume and value imports. The levels for the following species fell: cod, ww shrimps & prawns, p&p shrimps & prawns, haddock, pollack, mackerel, lobster, crabs, cw shrimps & prawns, plaice, herring, and monkfish.

In comparison to last year, the species that increased value imports the most were: salmon, nephrops, coley, and scallops. In contrast the species that decreased imports by value the most were: cod, tuna, haddock, ww shrimps & prawns, crabs, p&p shrimps & prawns, mackerel, cw shrimps & prawns, lobster, pollack, plaice, herring, and monkfish.
### Key import species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Overall performance (value, volume and average price per kg, including % changes)</th>
<th>Countries imports increased from (by order of value)</th>
<th>Countries imports decreased from (by order of value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salmon</strong></td>
<td>£185.0m (+11.1%) 28.2k t (+14.4%) £6.56/kg (-2.8%)</td>
<td>Sweden, Canada, Iceland, U.S.A., Poland, Norway, and Finland</td>
<td>Faroe Islands, Lithuania, China, Irish Republic, Denmark, Chile, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Portugal, and Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cod</strong></td>
<td>£124.3m (-16.4%) 23.2k t (-18.3%) £5.36/kg (+2.3%)</td>
<td>Greenland, Sweden, Poland, Faroe Islands, and Latvia</td>
<td>China, Germany, Norway, Iceland, France, Vietnam, Russia, Spain, Denmark, Lithuania, Canada, Italy, Portugal, Irish Republic, and Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuna</strong></td>
<td>£91.3m (-13.8%) 25.5k t (+0.4%) £3.58/kg (-14.1%)</td>
<td>Ecuador, Spain, Peru, Vietnam, Indonesia, Irish Republic, Tunisia, and Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Thailand, Mauritius, Portugal, France, Maldives, Ghana, Seychelles, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Germany, Netherlands, and Belgium</td>
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<td><strong>WW shrimps and prawns</strong></td>
<td>£82.8m (-4.9%) 9.9k t (-5.6%) £8.36/kg (+0.7%)</td>
<td>Bangladesh, Nicaragua, India, Ecuador, Irish Republic, Argentina, Indonesia, Germany, and Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Vietnam, Thailand, Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, France, Senegal, Spain, Honduras, and China</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P&amp;P shrimps and prawns</strong></td>
<td>£56.1m (-3.2%) 7.0k t (-3.5%) £8.04/kg (+0.3%)</td>
<td>Vietnam, Iceland, France, Russia, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Spain, U.S.A., and Italy</td>
<td>Denmark, Honduras, Norway, Germany, India, Canada, Netherlands, China, Burma, and Irish Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Haddock</strong></td>
<td>£44.2m (-20.5%) 11.9k t (-19.6%) £3.71/kg (-1.1%)</td>
<td>Sweden, Greenland, Russia, Latvia, and Lithuania</td>
<td>Iceland, Norway, China, Poland, France, Netherlands, Germany, Irish Republic, Denmark, Faroe Islands, and Canada</td>
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Seafood exports

In quarter 1 of 2020 seafood exports decreased across all measures: £385m (-18.2%), 109k t (-11.3%), £3.53/kg (-7.8%). Despite a slowing decline of volume exports in March, value exports experienced a 33.6% fall as the average price per kg was 28.1% lower than last year.

Export destinations

The countries that received the largest value of seafood from the UK were: France, U.S.A., and Irish Republic. Six countries improved their value ranking >2 positions: Ukraine, Romania, Poland, Canada, Netherlands, and United Arab Emirates. Whilst four countries lost >2 positions: Taiwan, China, Japan, and Hong Kong.

Export value and volume increased with six out of the top 20 countries. These were: Netherlands, Poland, Canada, Romania, Vietnam, and Ukraine. While export value and volume decreased from France, Spain, Italy, Germany, China, Denmark, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and Hong Kong.

In comparison to last year, the countries that increased their value exports of seafood the most were: U.S.A., Poland, Canada, Romania, Ukraine, Belgium, United Arab Emirates, Netherlands, and Vietnam. In contrast the countries that decreased their exports by value the most were: China, France, Spain, Germany, Taiwan, Italy, Irish Republic, Denmark, Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong.

Export species

The species with the greatest export value remain salmon, mackerel and nephrops. Only coley improved its ranking >2 positions, whilst p&p shrimps & prawns and herring lost >2 positions.

Coley, pollack, haddock, and plaice all increased their volume and value exports, whilst the export levels for the following species fell: salmon, nephrops, scallops, cod, crabs, ww shrimps & prawns, tuna, monkfish, lobster, p&p shrimps & prawns, herring, and cw shrimps & prawns.

In comparison to last year, the species that increased value exports the most were: pollack, coley, plaice, and haddock. The species that decreased exports by value the most were: salmon, crabs, nephrops, ww shrimps & prawns, scallops, p&p shrimps & prawns, herring, cod, lobster, tuna, monkfish, mackerel, and cw shrimps & prawns.
### Key export species

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<th>Species</th>
<th>Overall performance (total value, volume and average price per kg, including % changes)</th>
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<td><strong>Salmon</strong>&lt;br&gt; £169.0m (-13.4%)&lt;br&gt; 22.1k t (-25.8%)&lt;br&gt; £7.63/kg (+16.8%)</td>
<td>U.S.A., Poland, Canada, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, and Philippines</td>
<td>China, France, Taiwan, Japan, Germany, Denmark, Irish Republic, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Estonia, Spain, and Luxembourg</td>
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<td><strong>Mackerel</strong>&lt;br&gt; £32.5m (-2.1%)&lt;br&gt; 25.3k t (+9.7%)&lt;br&gt; £1.29/kg (-10.8%)</td>
<td>Netherlands, Romania, Poland, Ukraine, Egypt, Irish Republic, Italy, Mauritius, Greece, and Australia</td>
<td>France, Germany, China, Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Norway, Vietnam, and Slovenia</td>
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<td><strong>Nephrops</strong>&lt;br&gt; £17.1m (-31.6%)&lt;br&gt; 2.2k t (-31.8%)&lt;br&gt; £7.71/kg (+0.3%)</td>
<td>U.S.A., China, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Portugal, Luxembourg, Cyprus, and United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>Spain, Italy, France, Iceland, Irish Republic, Croatia, Japan, Netherlands, Germany, and Slovenia</td>
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<td><strong>Scallops</strong>&lt;br&gt; £13.6m (-26.1%)&lt;br&gt; 1.2k t (-20.0%)&lt;br&gt; £11.49/kg (-7.6%)</td>
<td>Denmark, Non-EU Ships &amp; Aircraft, Iceland, Sweden, Greece, Cyprus, and Poland</td>
<td>France, Italy, Germany, Irish Republic, Spain, Netherlands, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, Croatia, Slovenia, and Latvia</td>
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<td><strong>Cod</strong>&lt;br&gt; £11.2m (-18.4%)&lt;br&gt; 2.5k t (-25.7%)&lt;br&gt; £4.50/kg (+9.9%)</td>
<td>China, Australia, Belgium, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Canada, and Finland</td>
<td>Irish Republic, Spain, France, U.S.A., Netherlands, Cyprus, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, Malta, Italy, Hong Kong, and Czech Republic</td>
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<td><strong>Crab</strong>&lt;br&gt; £10.0m (-48.0%)&lt;br&gt; 1.7k t (-35.3%)&lt;br&gt; £5.85/kg (-19.6%)</td>
<td>U.S.A., Netherlands, Taiwan, Greece, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, Irish Republic, Canada, Cyprus, Belgium, and Malaysia</td>
<td>Norway, China, France, Spain, Portugal, Hong Kong, Denmark, Italy, Singapore, Norway, China, France, Spain, Portugal, Hong Kong, Denmark, Italy, and Singapore</td>
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<td><strong>Monkfish</strong>&lt;br&gt; £5.1m (-13.9%)&lt;br&gt; 0.8k t (-1.4%)&lt;br&gt; £6.30/kg (-12.7%)</td>
<td>Spain, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Croatia, Czech Republic, and Slovenia</td>
<td>France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Irish Republic, Luxembourg, Singapore, Belgium, Cyprus, Malta, United Arab Emirates, and Austria</td>
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<td><strong>Coley</strong>&lt;br&gt; £4.7m (+9.7%)&lt;br&gt; 1.9k t (+4.8%)&lt;br&gt; £2.50/kg (+4.8%)</td>
<td>France, Spain, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Cyprus</td>
<td>Denmark, Poland, Netherlands, Belgium, Irish Republic, China, Italy, Germany, Singapore, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Non-EU Ships &amp; Aircraft, and Croatia</td>
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<td><strong>Lobster</strong>&lt;br&gt; £3.6m (-32.9%)&lt;br&gt; 0.1k t (-38.7%)&lt;br&gt; £23.97/kg (+9.4%)</td>
<td>Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Hong Kong, Non-EU Ships &amp; Aircraft, Luxembourg, Barbados, and Germany</td>
<td>France, Spain, China, Belgium, Japan, Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, United Arab Emirates, Greece, Croatia, and Irish Republic</td>
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UK / EU import and export summary
The UK’s overall seafood trade with the EU decreased in Q1 2020 across all measures: £540m (-12.8%), 149k t (-9.2%). £3.62/kg (-4.0%)

Seafood imports into the UK from EU countries decreased volume and value, whilst the average price increased: £284m (-6.4%), 62k t (-10.3%), £4.57/kg (+4.4%)
  o The EU countries that imported the largest value of seafood into the UK were Sweden, Germany, Denmark.
  o The species with the greatest import value from the EU were salmon, tuna, and cod.

The EU remains the main destination for UK seafood exports, however levels fell across all measures: £255m (-19.0%), 87k t (-8.3%), £2.93/kg (-11.7%)
  o The EU countries that receive the largest value of seafood exports from the UK are France, Irish Republic, and Spain.
  o The species with the greatest export value are salmon, mackerel, and nephrops.
Further reading
The full Q1 import & export reports are available to download from our secure website here:

- Q1 2020 UK Seafood Import and Export Summary Provisional Data
- Q1 2020 UKEU Seafood Import and Export Summary Provisional Data


Data sources:
- HMRC data via Business Trade Statistics

Data context:
- This HMRC trade data is provisional, and may be amended prior to their final publication in September.
- No traceability is implied to the country of origin or geographic catch area of the seafood i.e. the named country may be part of a complex distribution chain.
- The values quoted are based on Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) delivery terms value for imports to the UK and the Free on Board (FOB) delivery terms value for exports from the UK.
- The volumes quoted are based on the actual product weight of the “goods” themselves without any packaging.
- % figures represent the change against previous year unless stated otherwise.
- Historic data has been refreshed in line with the September 2016 coding applied to finalised annual data.
- All calculations in this report were performed on the source data which may include many decimal places. For presentation purposes, the data in this report has been rounded at the end to reduce decimal places as far as possible. Therefore, manual calculations may provide slightly different results to those shown; please contact Seafish for the source data if you require further information.

Key:
- k t = thousand tonnes
- YA = Year Ago
- Unless stated otherwise: green text = positive change v YA, red text = negative change v YA
- CW = Cold Water, P&P = Prepared & Preserved, WW = Warm Water

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