

Total catch from marine fisheries reaches 64,720 metric tons in 2020

Fishing statistics compiled by the General Authority for Statistics show that the total catch in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf in 2020 amounted to 64,720 metric tons, a decrease by 2.2% compared to 2019. The catch in the Arabian Gulf in 2020 accounted for 64.8% of the total catch in the Kingdom. 91.1% of the total catch in the Kingdom come from the traditional marine fisheries. The most important region of the traditional fisheries in the Red Sea is Jazan, accounting for 44.0% of the catch, with a quantity of 7,511 metric tons.

Fishing boats and fishers

The number of fishing boats in the Kingdom in 2020 amounted to approximately 10,697 metric ton. The traditional boats recorded the highest percentage of the fishing boats in the Kingdom, comprising 98.5% of the total boats. The Red Sea coast boats accounted for 80.2% of the total boats on the coasts of the Kingdom.

Regarding workforce in marine fishing in 2020, it amounted to 30,257 workers, including 70.9% fishing workers, out of which 17.2% are Saudis. Fishers accounted for 29.0% of the total workforce in marine fishing.

Exports and imports of fish and shrimps

The total imports of fish and shrimps in 2020 amounted to 123,028 metric tons, a decrease of 21.5% compared to 2019. The total exports in the same year amounted to 27,847 metric tons, a decrease of 29.8% of the total exports in 2019. The re-exports in 2020 amounted to 5,799 metric tons, a decrease of 11.2% compared to 2019.

Catch of shrimps in marine fisheries

The amount of catch of shrimps in marine fisheries in the Arabian Gulf amounted to 6,586 metric tons, 99.4% of which were caught by traditional fisheries. The catch in the Red Sea amounted to 668 metric tons from industrial fisheries.

Table 1. Key Indicators of Marine Fisheries (2020)

Key indicators	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total catch from marine fisheries	Metric ton	66,538	66,401	68,003	66,206	64,720
Number of fishing boats	Number	10,054	9,224	10,944	10,929	10,697
Number of workforces	Number	24,466	28,043	30,370	30,332	30,257
Total amount of imports of fish and shrimps	Metric ton	160,570.2	155,047.1	138,044.9	156,729.4	123,028.3
Total amount of export of fish and shrimps	Metric ton	48,283.5	61,104.3	69,842.2	39,677.6	27,847.8

Source: [Tables of marine fishing publication](#)

Figure 1. Total Exports, Imports and Re-Exports of Fish and Shrimps (2020) (Thousand Metric Tons)

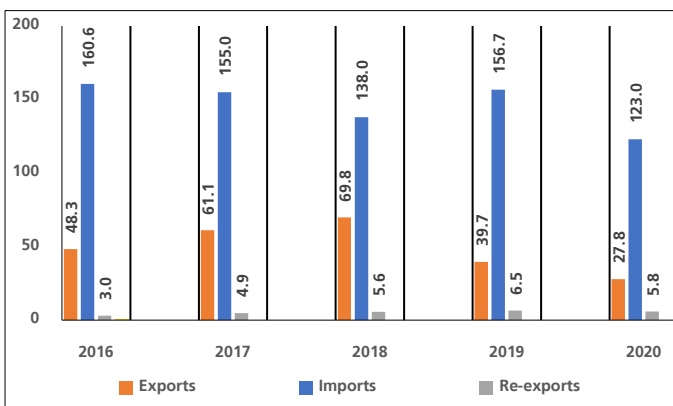


Figure 2. Total Catch from Marine Fisheries in 2020 (64,720 Metric Tons)

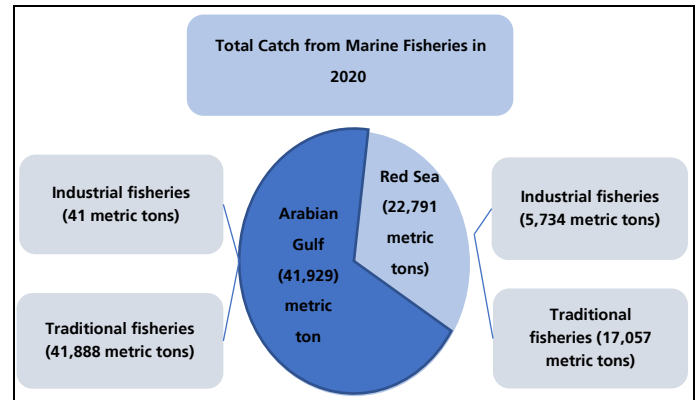
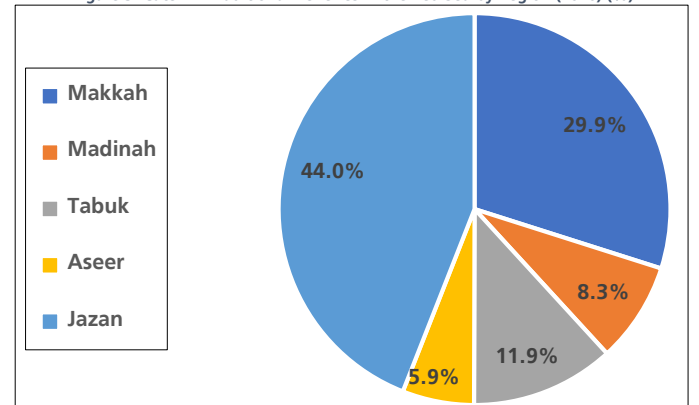


Figure 3. Catch in Traditional Fisheries in the Red Sea by Region (2020) (%)



Methodology

The Marine Fishing Publication identifies the total catch of fish and shrimps in the marine fisheries in the Kingdom, the number of fishing boats, the number of workforces, exports, and imports.

The Publication is based on Administrative Records data from the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture and data from the General Authority for Statistics. Data were collected through official correspondence to the data owners and transferred by various means of transport and via e-mail. [Methodology](#).