

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR FISHING

OECD governments provide financial support to the fishing industry, typically for the purposes of management, including surveillance and research. This financial support is important to ensure a sustainable and responsible fisheries sector.

Definition

The indicator on “Government financial transfers (GFTs)” provides a measure of the financial support provided by governments to the fisheries sector. GFT consists of direct revenue enhancing transfers (direct payments), i.e. transfers that reduce the operating costs and the costs of general services provided to the fishing industry. These general services consist mainly of fishery protection services and fisheries management; in some cases they also include the costs of local area weather forecasting and the costs of navigation and satellite surveillance systems designed to assist fishing fleets.

Comparability

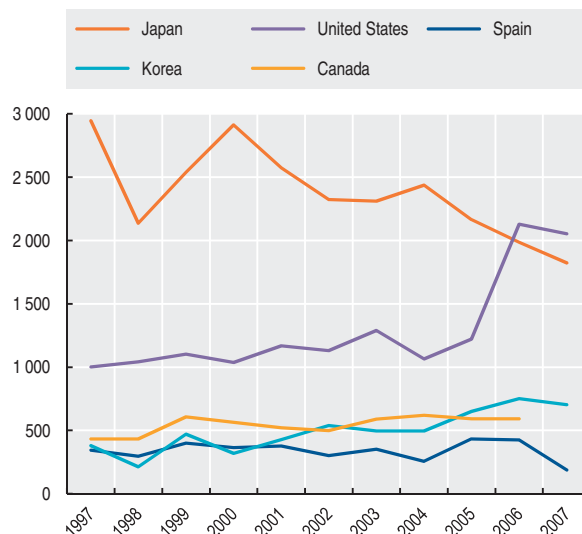
The data are relatively comprehensive and consistent across the years. However, some year-to-year variations may reflect changes in national statistical systems. General services provided by governments may also include large and irregular capital investments. It should also be noted that some types of GFT (e.g. at maritime surveillance) may be provided by another agency than fisheries agencies (e.g. in some countries maritime surveillance is carried out by the navy); some of these data may not be available. Also, some figures, in particular for later years, are still preliminary.

Overview

Total government support for fishing peaked at USD 6.6 billion in 2006. Overall, transfers to the fishing industry in OECD countries have been fluctuating at around USD 6 billion over the last decade. The majority of GFTs are categorized as general services, accounting for 75% of the total GFTs in 2006. OECD governments spent USD 1.6 billion for management and enforcement, and USD 736 million to conduct fisheries research. Other types of general services covered by GFTs include harbor construction and maintenance, as well as stock enhancement and habitat conservation. A large part of GFTs for general services (USD 2.1 billion out of 5.3 billion) are included in the “not specified” category, as several countries have not reported sufficient details. Direct payments represent 19% of total GFTs. In 2006, USD 250 million were dedicated to decommissioning schemes, while USD 32 million were used to construct or modernize fishing vessels. Other direct payments included unemployment insurance (USD 223 million) and disaster relief (USD 188 million). The third category of GFTs, cost reducing transfers, accounted for 6% of the total GFTs.

GFT to fishing for selected countries

Million US dollars



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/822130571445>

Sources

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Further information

Analytical publications

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- Cox, A. (2004), *Subsidies and Deep-Sea Fisheries Management: Policy Issues and Challenges*, OECD, Paris.
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Web sites

- OECD Fisheries, www.oecd.org/fisheries.



Government financial transfers to fishing

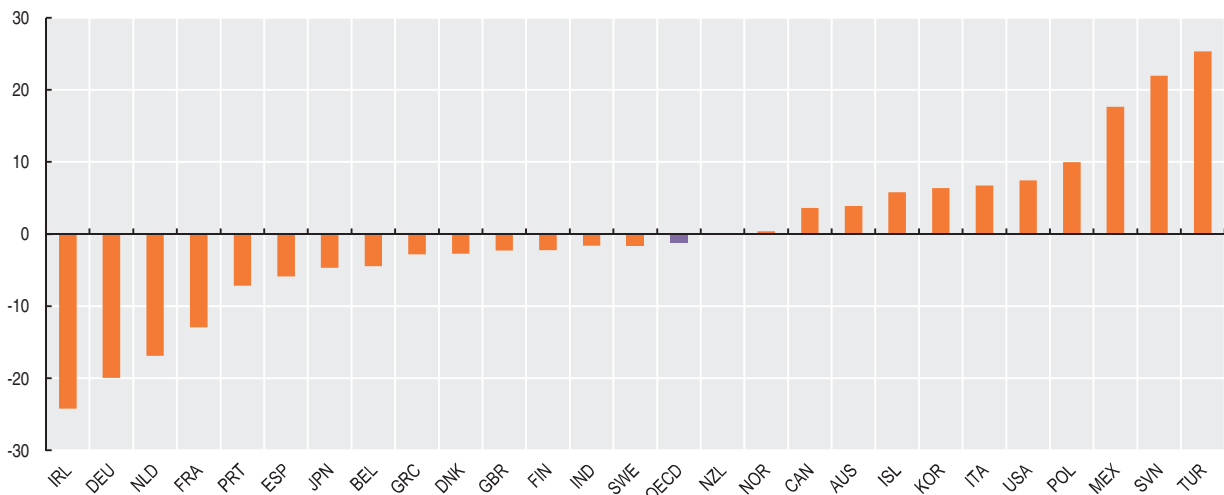
Thousand US dollars

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	41 230	..	..	82 272	75 902	78 038	95 558	95 560	46 299	52 080	60 355
Belgium	4 949	..	4 473	6 849	2 830	1 607	1 668	6 328	8 613	7 103	3 140
Canada	433 309	..	606 443	564 497	521 355	497 771	589 975	618 787	591 000	596 195	..
Denmark	82 030	90 507	27 765	16 316	..	68 769	37 659	28 505	58 108	90 036	62 105
Finland	26 198	26 888	19 236	13 908	16 510	16 025	20 231	19 397	24 817	17 496	20 892
France	140 807	..	71 665	166 147	141 786	155 283	179 740	236 811	126 194	36 535	35 229
Germany	63 215	16 488	31 276	29 834	28 988	28 208	33 890	18 326	30 928	4 878	6 819
Greece	46 958	26 908	43 030	87 315	86 957	88 334	119 045	35 500	61 013	58 276	35 267
Iceland	38 678	36 954	39 763	41 978	28 310	28 955	48 348	55 705	64 326	52 000	68 000
Ireland	98 880	..	143 184	..	..	63 632	64 960	21 448	22 144	19 743	6 167
Italy	91 811	..	200 470	217 679	231 680	159 630	149 270	170 055	119 239	165 161	..
Japan	2 945 785	2 135 946	2 537 536	2 913 149	2 574 086	2 323 601	2 310 744	2 437 934	2 165 198	1 950 000	1 824 000
Korea	378 994	211 927	471 556	320 449	428 313	538 695	495 280	495 280	649 387	644 000	703 000
Mexico	16 808	..	..	..	..	..	177 000	114 000	84 973	88 760	85 267
Netherlands	35 849	..	..	1 389	12 779	12 443	6 569	5 218	13 685	18 425	5 638
New Zealand	40 397	29 412	29 630	27 273	15 126	18 981	38 325	50 134	32 197	37 966	40 574
Norway	163 437	153 046	180 962	104 564	99 465	156 340	139 200	142 315	149 521	143 498	169 367
Poland	7 927	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50 523	33 659	20 477
Portugal	65 077	..	28 674	25 578	25 066	24 899	26 930	26 930	32 769	29 219	30 896
Spain	344 581	296 642	399 604	364 096	376 614	301 926	353 290	256 569	433 786	246 625	188 207
Sweden	53 452	26 960	31 053	25 186	22 505	24 753	30 650	34 422	36 603	34 785	45 652
Turkey	15 114	..	1 277	26 372	17 721	16 167	16 300	59 500	98 072	136 182	144 739
United Kingdom	128 066	90 833	75 968	81 394	73 738	..	82 691	87 487	103 150	103 994	..
United States	1 002 580	1 041 000	1 103 100	1 037 710	1 169 590	1 130 810	1 290 440	1 064 400	..	2 043 425	2 053 142
OECD total	6 258 205	4 183 511	6 046 665	6 153 955	5 949 321	5 734 867	6 307 763	6 080 611	6 174 521	6 610 041	5 608 933
India	341	397	410	331	346	314	..	..	..	..	..
Slovenia	520	581	484	723	581	687	680	566	1 085	1 346	3 787

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/826416450536>

Government financial transfers to fishing

Average annual growth in percentage, 1997-2007 or latest available period



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