Nearly half of the population of EU countries with a sea border is located in coastal regions

Key figures for coastal regions and sea areas

This Statistics in Focus contains a range of official statistics that are currently available, published for the first time in terms of EU coastal regions. These coastal regions are defined as standard statistical regions (NUTS level 3), which have at least half of their population within 50 km of the coast.

In addition, the coastal data are presented following the six main sea basins which border the EU territory. The statistics contained in this publication are not extensive, but illustrate how data from different statistical domains can be used in the context of the Integrated EU Maritime Policy[1].

Introduction

Interactions with the sea are nowadays more intense and create significant value for Europe. Building on this observation, the Commission proposed an Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, based on the clear recognition that all matters relating to Europe's ocean and seas are interlinked. In December 2007, the European Council endorsed the Integrated EU Maritime Policy, which brings together the different policy areas relating to maritime activities and the coastal environment. It became clear that an integrated governance framework for maritime affairs requires horizontal planning tools that cut across sea-related sectoral policies and joined up policy making. The following three tools have to receive particular attention: (1) maritime surveillance which is critical for the safe and secure use of marine space; (2) maritime spatial planning which is a key planning tool for sustainable decision making and (3) a comprehensive and accessible source of data and information.

Availability and easy access to a wide range of natural and human-activity data on the oceans is the basis for

strategic decision making on maritime policy. For this reason, Eurostat with support from other Commission services[2] took recently steps to discuss how an eventual extension of its reference database could be envisaged. An area of the database could be dedicated to the presentation of relevant socio-economic data, compiled from a range of existing statistical domains. Comparable data from other official sources could also be added to the database where possible. This data should be compiled in a comprehensive and compatible way, and made accessible as a tool for better governance, expansion of value-added services and sustainable maritime development. This is a considerable undertaking with many dimensions. Further development of such a database according to a clear and coherent implementing plan needs still to be defined over the coming period.

Main findings

The length of the coastline for the 22 EU Member States with a sea border is estimated to be 136 106 km. The European coastal regions account for 43 % of the total EU-22[3] area and population. In the coastal regions, the population density (inhabitants per km²) is highest on the islands of Malta, followed by Belgium and the Netherlands on the EU mainland. The lowest population densities are to be found in Estonia, Sweden and Finland. Figures for 2006 show an average unemployment rate in the EU coastal regions of 6.5 % compared to 8.3 % for EU-22. Among the six main sea basins[4] which border the EU territory, the Baltic and

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[1] *The Integrated Maritime Policy: On 10 October 2007 the Commission presented its vision for an Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union. The vision document – also called the Blue book – was accompanied by a detailed Action Plan, an impact assessment and a report on the results of the broad stakeholder consultation.*

[2] *An Action Group on "improving sectoral (ocean and coastal) socio-economic data at regional and EU-level" was created to bring together outside stakeholders and relevant Commission services – Directorate generals (ESTAT,ENT,TREN,EMP,REGIO,MARE, ENV and EEA)to work on developing the required range and quality of socio-economic data at regional and EU-level*

[3] *EU-22 are the 22 countries with a sea coast in the European Union*

[4] *Sea basins: The EU coastline has been divided into six area categories : NE Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, North Sea, Mediterranean Sea, black Sea and Outermost Regions*
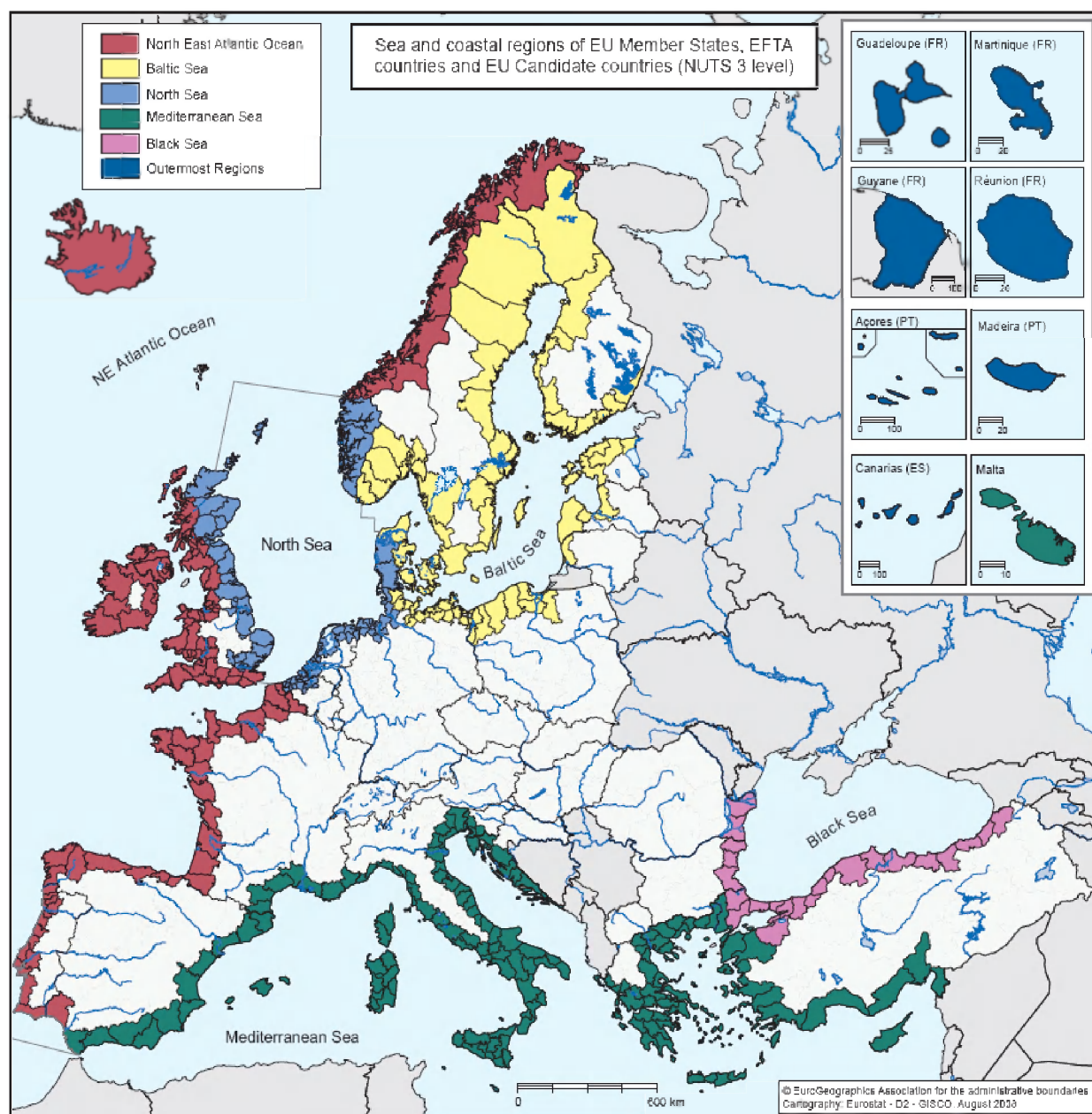
Mediterranean zones occupy two third of the total EU-22 coastal area. The unemployed workforce observed in the Mediterranean Sea basin represents half of the total unemployment in the EU coastal regions.

The highest average annual GDP per capita is observed in the North Sea basin while the lowest GDP per capita is noted in the Black Sea. In all the EU coastal regions, with exception of Romania, more than 60 % of the Gross value added (GVA) is generated by the tertiary sector (services).

Among the six main sea basins which border the EU territory, the Baltic and Mediterranean zones occupy by far the largest area (67 %) compared to the four other sea basins of which three (Black Sea, Outermost Regions and North Sea) represent less than 10% of the total coastal areas.

Delimitation of Coastal Zones and Sea Basins

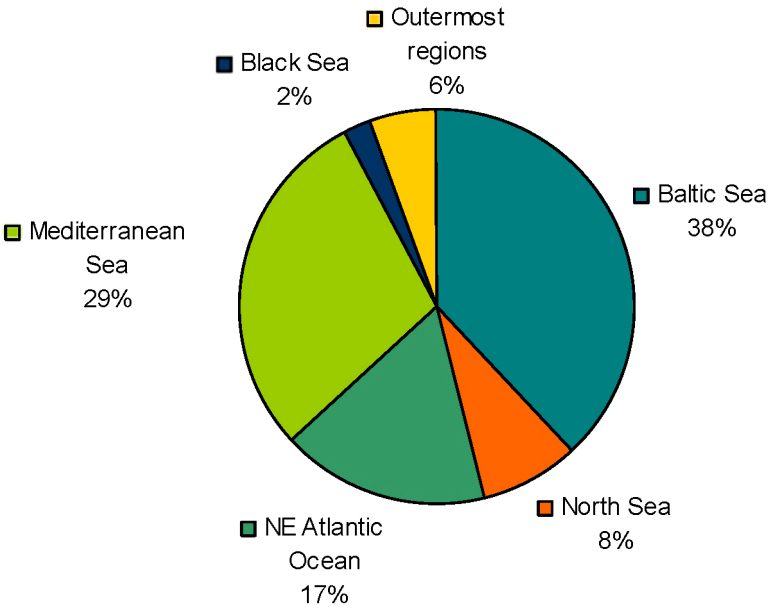**Figure 1: Coastal regions of EU Sea basins**

Source: Eurostat, GISCO

For the purposes of reporting data relating to different sea basins, the coastline has been divided into six area categories (figure 1):

- North East Atlantic Ocean
- Baltic Sea
- North Sea
- Mediterranean Sea
- Black Sea
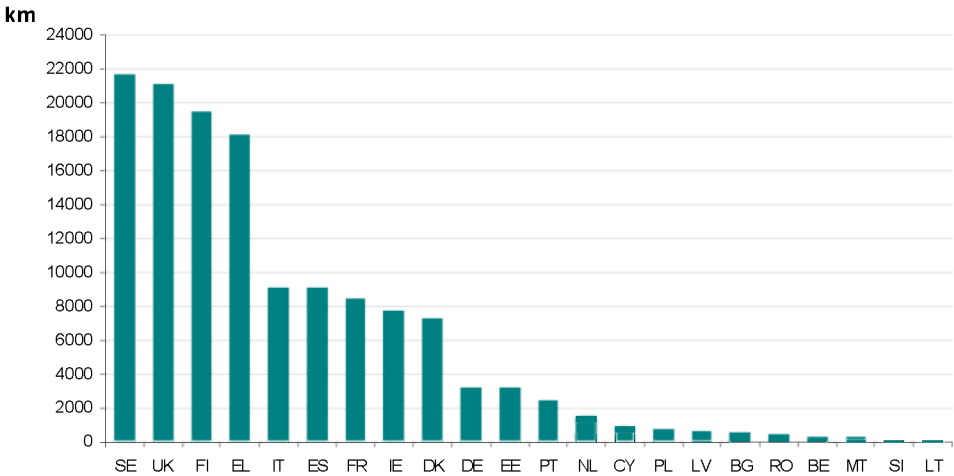- Outermost Regions (French overseas territories, Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira)

Figure 2: Relative size of sea basins, km^2, 2006

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

Main characteristics of the coastal regions

Figure 3: Length of EU coasts

Source: European Environment Agency, Corine Land Cover database
Scale of the dataset: 1:100000

The European Union has a coastline of 136 106 km. The EU is surrounded by four seas: the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the North and the Black Sea and by one Ocean, the Atlantic. The EU's coastal regions' size is 1 772 768 km². The EU coastal regions are occupied by 199 million citizens resulting in an average population density of 100 inhabitants per km² compared to 108 over the 22 EU countries with a sea coast. Six EU countries (Sweden, France, Finland, Italy, Spain and Greece) have coastal regions representing more than 100 000 km² and occupying together 75% of the EU coastal area.
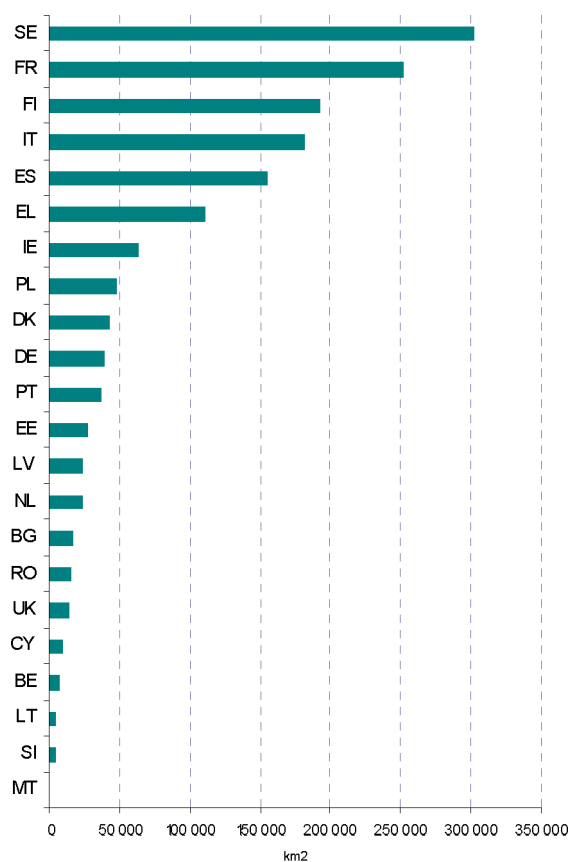
Table 1: EU coasts: main facts, 2006

	Unit	Year	European coastal regions	EU-22
Total area (1)	Km²	2006	1 772 768	4 095 998
	% of EU-22	2006	43.3	100
Length of coasts (2)	Km		-	136 106
Population (1)	1000 Inhab.	2006	199 353	458 036
	% of EU-22	2006	43.5	100

(1) Source: Eurostat, Regio database

(2) Source: European Environment Agency, Corine Land Cover database

Figure 4: Area of EU Coastal regions, km², 2006
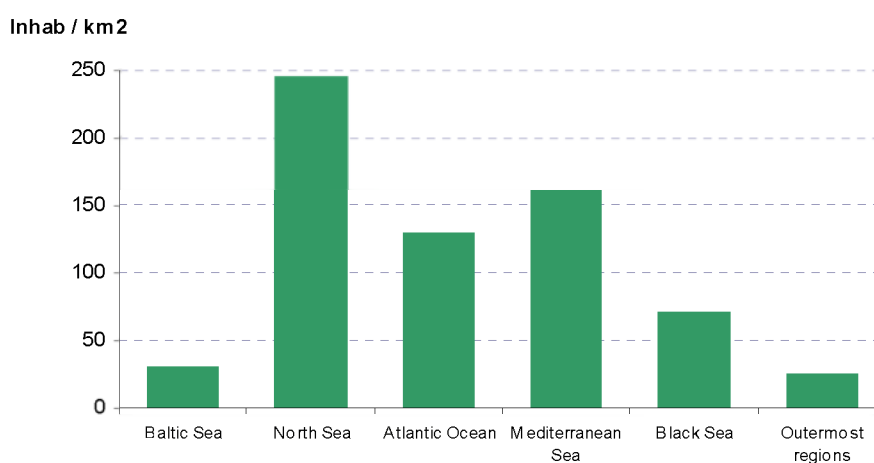

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

Population density

The observed EU coastal regions count 199 million citizens which results in an average population density of 100 inhabitants per km². Among the 22 concerned EU countries, a very high population density (over 200 inhabit./km²) is registered in the coastal regions of Malta, Belgium, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Portugal and Ita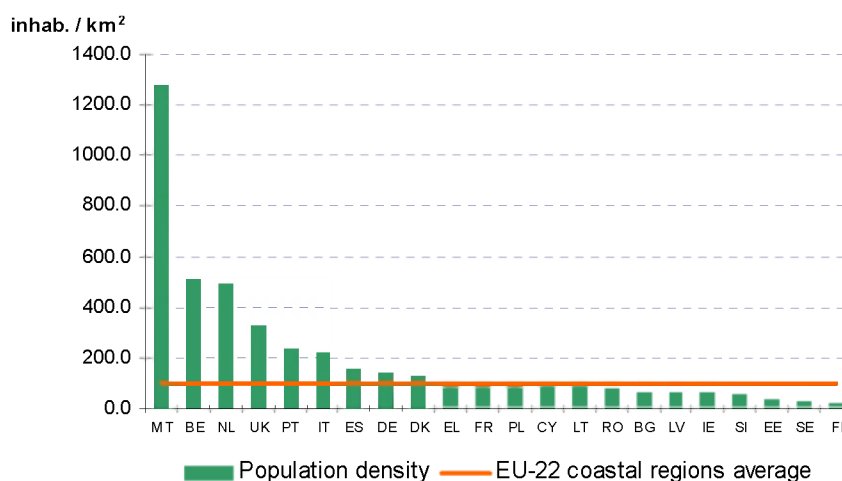ly. The highest density is observed in Malta with more than 1200 inhabitants per km². The lowest densities are found in Estonia, Sweden and Finland with less than 40 inhabitants per km². The North Sea basin has by far the highest population density with on average nearly 250 inhabitants per km² while the Baltic Sea and the Outermost regions have only around 30 inhabitants per km².

Figure 5: Coastal regions population density, by Sea basins, 2005

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

Figure 6: Coastal regions population density, by country, 2005

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

Labour market in coastal regions

Unemployment

The average unemployment rate in the EU coastal regions was to 6.5% or 4.65 million persons compared to 8.3% and 18 million persons for the total EU-22.

According to 2006 data, about half of the unemployed workforce live in the Mediterranean Sea basin.

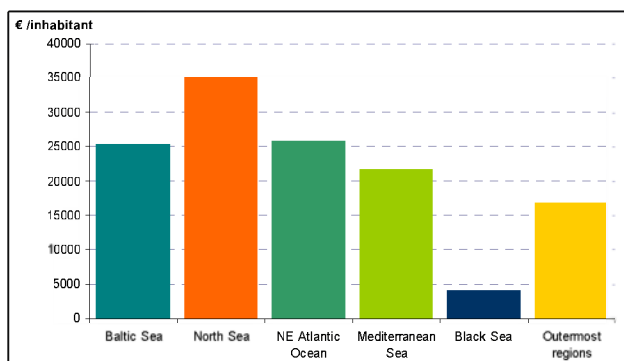**Table 2: Unemployment in coastal regions, 2006**

EU countries with a sea border	1000 persons	% of national	% of EU coastal regions	1000 persons	% of national	% of EU coastal regions	1000 persons	% of national	% of EU coastal regions	1000 persons	% of national	% of EU coastal regions
	Males 15-24 years			Males 25+ years			Females 15-24 years			Females 25+ years		
BE	3.0	7.0	0.6	19.0	13.1	1.1	3.0	6.4	0.6	17.0	11.6	0.9
BG	7.0	23.2	1.3	15.0	11.6	0.8	8.0	27.8	1.4	18.0	15.0	1.0
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DE				85.0	4.3	4.9				44.0	2.7	2.4
EE	3.0	79.1	0.6	13.0	77.1	0.8	3.0	71.7	0.6	13.0	87.0	0.7
IE	8.0	45.4	1.4	37.0	96.1	2.1	3.0	23.4	0.6	19.0	76.5	1.0
EL	19.0	48.2	3.3	96.0	77.4	5.5	32.0	53.6	6.1	181.0	85.2	9.9
ES	111.0	54.0	19.5	316.0	53.9	18.2	126.0	53.0	24.0	409.0	50.6	22.4
FR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	165.0	74.0	29.0	425.0	73.6	24.5	157.0	77.8	29.8	452.0	67.4	24.8
CY	2.0	100.0	0.3	6.0	100.0	0.4	2.0	100.0	0.4	7.0	100.0	0.4
LV	6.0	60.9	1.0	18.0	50.3	1.0	5.0	59.8	1.0	16.0	60.9	0.9
LT	4.0	53.2	0.7	6.0	14.7	0.3	:	:	:	6.0	15.2	0.3
MT	3.2	100.0	0.5	4.1	100.0	0.2	2.2	100.0	0.4	2.5	100.0	0.1
NL	19.0	44.1	3.3	79.0	63.8	4.5	28.0	59.7	5.4	70.0	57.1	3.8
PL	35.0	11.1	6.1	100.0	11.3	5.8	30.0	10.9	5.8	101.0	11.7	5.5
PT	16.0	35.8	2.8	105.0	69.4	6.0	13.0	29.0	2.5	146.0	77.6	8.0
RO	11.0	8.2	1.9	23.0	7.0	1.3	4.0	4.8	0.8	14.0	7.1	0.8
SI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	13.0	41.2	2.3	39.0	56.5	2.3	15.0	49.7	2.9	37.0	51.0	2.1
SE	44.0	71.7	7.8	83.0	5.3	1.3	44.0	69.4	8.4	84.0	83.7	4.6
UK	102.0	27.0	17.9	260.0	48.3	15.0	50.0	18.8	9.4	187.0	44.8	10.3

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

Important economic data on coastal regions
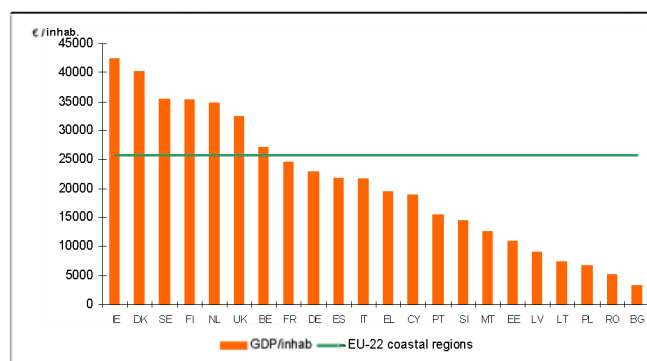
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Figure 7: Coastal regions GDP per capita by Sea basins, current market prices, 2006

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

The highest annual GDP per capita is observed in the North Sea basin (EUR 35 073 per inhabitant), while the lowest GDP figure (< EUR 5 000 per inhabitant) is noted in the Black Sea basin. The GDP per capital in the EU coastal regions amounted to an average EUR 25 761 (2006 prices).

Figure 8: Coastal regions GDP per capita, current market prices, 2006
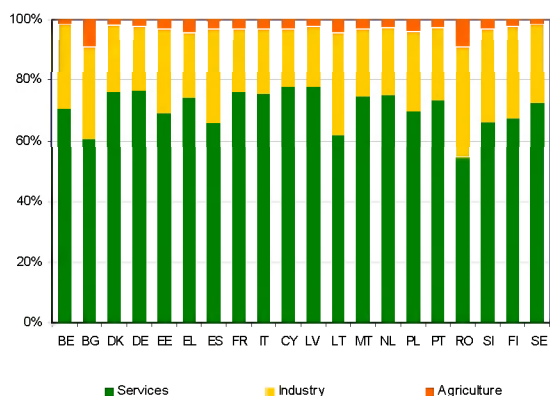

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

The average GDP per capita exceeds EUR 25 000 per inhabitant in the coastal regions of Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom and Belgium while a GDP of less than EUR 5000 is observed in Bulgaria and Romania.

Gross value added (GVA)

In all the EU coastal regions, with the exception of Romania, more than 60% of the Gross Value Added (GVA) is generated by the tertiary sector (services). While in Romania and Bulgaria the agriculture s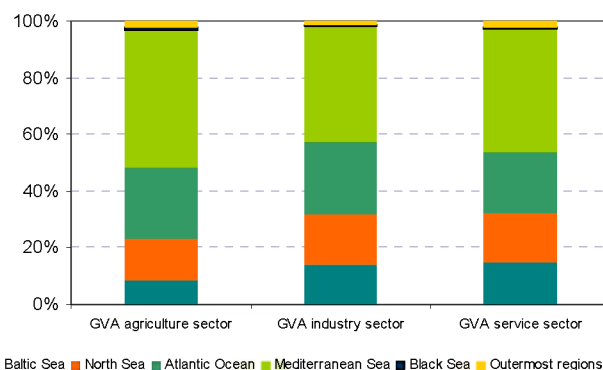ector remains relatively important, the majority of the remaining part is produced by the secondary sector (industry). Among the sea basins, the Mediterranean Sea basin generates the largest part (over 40 %) by sector and by sea basin.

Figure 9: Coastal regions GVA at basic prices by sector, national level = 100, 2005

Source: Eurostat, Regio database
IE and UK not available

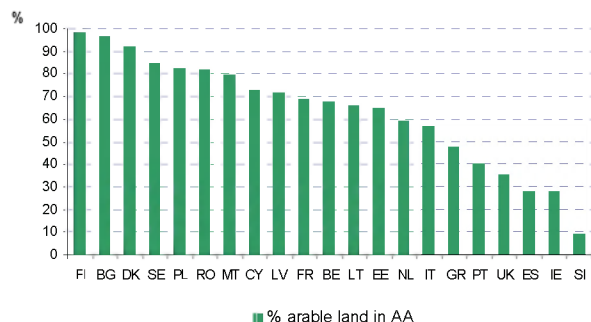**Figure 10: GVA by sector and sea basin, basic prices, 2005**

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

Main findings by economic sector in coastal regions
Primary sector

In 2005 the agricultural sector in the coastal regions contributed EUR 103.8 billion in gross valued added, or 51.9% of the gross value added produced by the agricultural sector in the Member States with a sea border (excluding IE and UK – data not available). The proportion of arable land in the coastal regions reached 51.5 % of total agricultural area. The part of arable land in total agricultural area exceeds 80% in Finland, Bulgaria, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Romania and Malta while in Spain, Ireland and Slovenia less than 30% of the agricultural area is occupied by arable land.

Figure 11: % of arable land in coastal regions agricultural area, 2005

Source: Eurostat, Regio database
DE not available

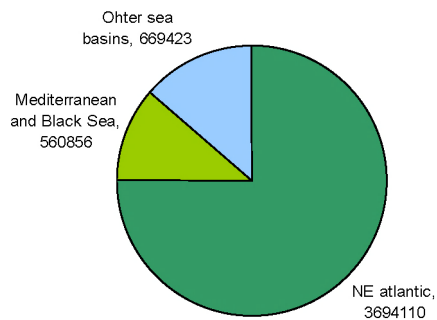**Table 3: Costal regions agricultural area, 2005**

EU countries with a sea border	Agricultural area ha	Arable land ha	% arable in AA
BE	360980	245650	68.1
BG	610140	587750	96.3
CY	151500	110170	72.7
DK	2707680	2500600	92.4
EE	486670	316710	65.1
ES	5233330	1460230	27.9
FI	1237060	1218570	98.5
FR	8000970	5509040	68.9
EL	3551150	1682780	47.4
IE	3783830	1040250	27.5
IT	8133660	4580950	56.3
LT	222620	146530	65.8
LV	547930	391690	71.5
MT	10260	8200	79.9
NL	1030620	609030	59.1
PL	1891100	1564250	82.7
PT	1188710	473500	39.8
RO	868000	711380	82.0
SI	65120	5940	9.1
SE	2474820	2091030	84.5
UK	13970710	4860920	34.8

Source: Eurostat, Regio database
DE not available

Table 4: Agriculture in Sea basins, 2005 data

	Unit	Baltic Sea	North Sea	Atlantic Ocean	Mediterranean Sea	Black Sea	Outermost regions	Total
Utilised Agricultural area	%	9.9	17.8	44.9	23.5	3.4	0.5	100
Proportion of arable land in UAA	%	82.2	55.4	42.7	48.5	87.9	30.6	51.5
Livestock density per holding	Nb of livestock units	25	106	53	13	2	10	30
Standard gross margin (per holding)	ESU	12	74	26	10	2	14	15
Standard gross margin (per Annual Working Unit)	ESU	11	47	20	14	3	13	17

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

Figure 12: Catches of marine animals, tonnes, 2006

Source: Eurostat, Agriculture and fisheries

The NE Atlantic Ocean occupies nearly half (44.9%) of the total Utilised Agriculture Area (UAA) of the EU 22 coastal regions. The proportion of arable land in UAA is the highest in the Black Sea basin (87.9%) and the Baltic Sea basin (82.2%). The livestock density per holding is relatively high in the North Sea basin.

In 2006, the fishing sector produced nearly 5 million tonnes of marine animals of which 75% were caught in the North East Atlantic while 11% came from the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Secondary sector

Table 5: Maritime transport of passengers and goods, 2006

	Nb of seaborne passengers embarked and disembarked in ports (in 1000)	Gross weight of seaborne goods handled in ports (in million tonnes)
BE	891	218.9
BG	15	27.5
DK	48145	107.7
DE	29256	302.8
EE	8546	50.0
IE	3207	53.3
EL	90402	159.4
ES	22167	414.4
FR	26402	350.3
IT	85984	520.2
CY	228	7.6
LV	217	56.9
LT	190	27.2
MT	7328	5.5
NL	2127	477.2
PL	1737	53.1
PT	686	66.9
RO	0	46.7
SI	30	15.5
FI	16739	110.5
SE	32334	180.5
UK	29930	583.7

Source: Eurostat, maritime transport statistics

There are about 400 maritime passenger ports and about 1000 freight ports in the EU coastal regions.
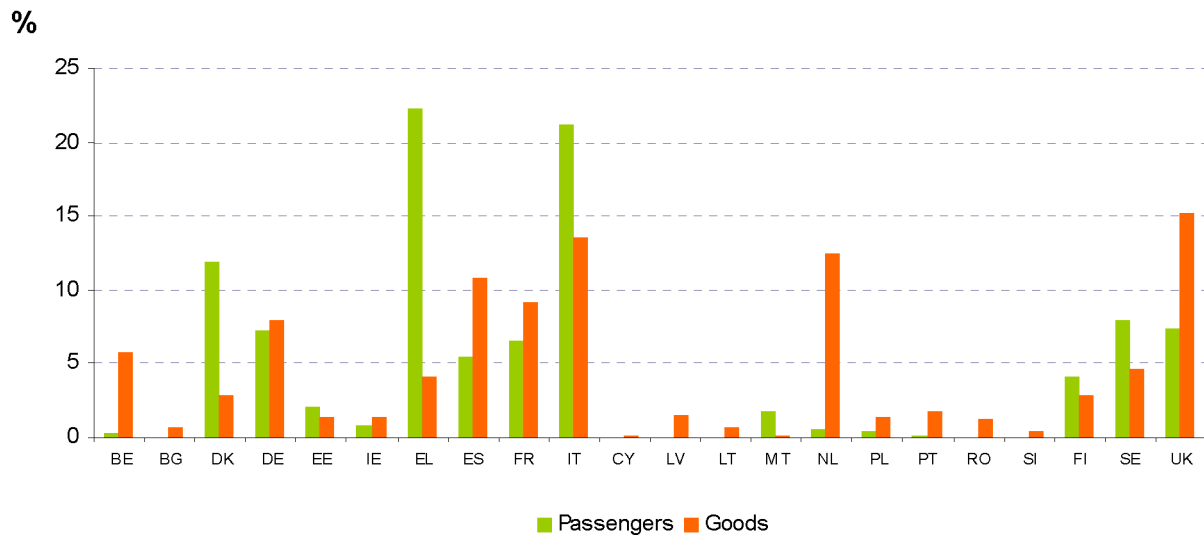
In 2006, more than 400 million passengers were counted in EU ports while cargo handling reached almost 4 billion tonnes.

Around 64% of the tonnes handled in EU maritime ports were goods unloaded ('inward goods) and the rest (36%) goods loaded ('outwards').

For additional information see here:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-09-006/EN/KS-SF-09-006-EN.PDF

Figure 13: Share of maritime passengers and goods transport, 2006

Source: Eurostat, maritime transport statistics
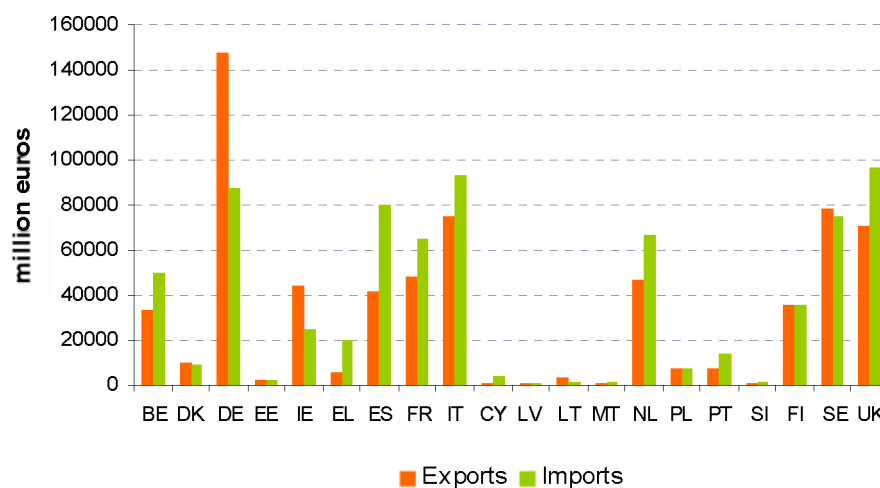
Table 6: External trade of goods by sea, 2007

EU countries with a sea border	Exports, million €	Imports, million €
BE	33 094	50 352
DK	10 304	8 865
DE	147 128	87 279
EE	2 693	2 351
IE	44 163	25 298
EL	5 523	19 622
ES	42 083	79 740
FR	47 929	64 624
IT	75 143	93 557
CY	576	4 053
LV	1 142	580
LT	3 205	1 396
MT	747	1 959
NL	46 944	66 595
PL	7 495	7 182
PT	7 467	14 247
SI	858	1 634
FI	35 673	35 853
SE	78 077	74 735
UK	70 626	96 258

Source: Eurostat, Comext database

BG, RO missing for both flows

In 2007, the extra- and intra-EU import passing through EU ports were valued at EUR 736 180 millions while the equivalent figure for exports reached EUR 660 870. The highest trade activities are observed in the following countries: Germany, Italy, The United Kingdom, Sweden, Spain, The Netherlands and France.
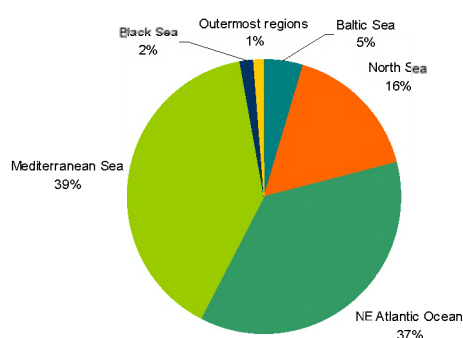
Figure 14: External trade of goods by sea, 2007

Source: Eurostat, Comext database
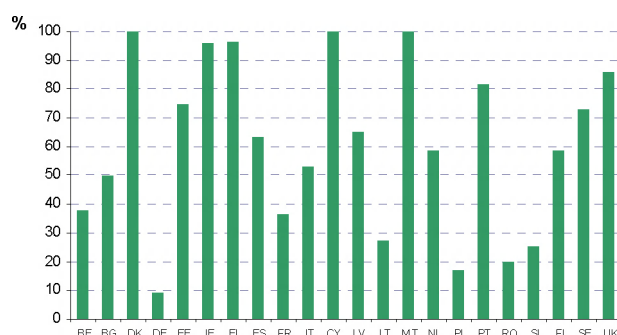
BG, RO not available

Tertiary sector

Tourism is among the major economic sectors in the EU coastal regions. Almost 96 000 hotel units are located in these areas.

The Mediterranean and the NE Atlantic sea basins have together more than 75% of the hotels located in coastal regions.

Figure 15: Hotels in coastal regions by sea basins, 2007

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

Figure 16: Share of hotels located in coastal regions, % of national figure, 2007

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

Table 7: Hotels located in coastal regions, 2007

	Number of hotels	% of national figure
BE	735	37.6
BG	672	49.9
DK	473	100.0
DE	3288	9.1
EE	255	74.8
IE	4124	96.0
EL	8769	96.2
ES	11541	63.1
FR	6603	36.4
IT	17956	53.2
CY	753	100.0
LV	209	65.1
LT	92	27.2
MT	173	100.0
NL	1807	58.3
PL	389	16.9
PT	1655	81.6
RO	822	19.7
SI	91	25.4
FI	539	58.4
SE	1374	72.8
UK	33600	85.9

Source: Eurostat, Regio database

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The geographical breakdown is important in the analysis of the maritime sector and the associated activities. **Regional data** are required in order to build a relevant description of maritime activities**.** Therefore a delimitation of the **coastal areas, oceans and seas**, including islands, is needed.

Information available at NUTS 3 level was compiled and used to make an analysis of National coastal and near-coastal regions. The "EU coastal region" is composed of coastal regions located in the following 22 countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. By definition, this area includes all NUTS 3 regions with a sea border and NUTS 3 regions where more than half of the population live within 50 km of the sea. This criterion is also used at a more detailed level when considering national coastal zones.

SOURCES

Among the statistical data collections available in the Eurostat database, the following were used in this publication:

REGIO (Regional database)
The regional data collected in the various studied domains covered by Eurostat are centralised into the REGIO database. Most of the indicators available in this database are at NUTS level 2. A number of indicators are available at NUTS level 3, which were used in this publication.

LFS: Labour Force Survey
The European Union Labour Force Survey (EU LFS) is conducted in the 27 Member States of the European Union and two countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA. The EU LFS is a large household sample survey providing quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over as well as on persons outside the labour force. All definitions apply to persons aged 15 years and over, living in private households. Persons carrying out obligatory military service are not included.

Maritime Transport data
The maritime transport data cover sea transport expressed as gross weight of goods (in tonnes), as number of passengers and as vessels arrivals at main ports (number of vessels and gross tonnage of vessels). The maritime transport data are calculated using data collected at port level. The data are displayed at port level, regional level, Maritime Coastal Area (MCA) level and country level.

Agricultural and Fishery statistics
Eurostat's database on fishery statistics contains around 2000000 figures covering fishery catches, landings of fishery products, aquaculture production, the fishing fleets, foreign trade in fishery products, employment in fisheries and supply balance sheets for fishery products.

On the other hand, there is a large range of data that stands under the heading of agricultural statistics. Of these, some of the most important include data on the structure of agriculture holdings (the farm structure survey and some specialised statistics on orchards and vineyards), the production (areas and quantities) of the main (crops and animals) agricultural products, agro-monetary issues (economic accounts for agriculture; prices and price indices of agriculture products and inputs used in the agricultural production), and food balance sheets which present a comprehensive picture of the pattern of EU and national food supply during a specified reference period.

External trade database (Comext)

External trade statistics cover both extra- and intra-EU trade: Extra-EU trade statistics cover the trading of goods between a Member State and a non-member country. Intra-EU trade statistics cover the trading of goods between Member States. "Goods" means all movable property including electric current. Detailed and aggregated data are published for the Euro area, the European Union and for each Member State separately.

Corine Land Cover database – European Environment Agency
One of the major tasks undertaken in the framework of the Corine programme has been the establishment of a computerised inventory on land cover. Data on land cover are necessary for the environmental policy as well as for regional development and agricultural policies. At the same time it provides one of the basic inputs for the production of more complex information on other themes (soil erosion, pollutant emissions into the air by the vegetation, etc.). The main objective of the land cover project is to provide those responsible for and interested in the European environmental policy with quantitative data on land cover, which is consistent and comparable across Europe.

CORINE Land Cover Land Use database (EEA)

ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

UAA	**Utilised Agricultural area** – Area utilised for farming includes area under main crops.
Arable land	Land worked regularly, generally under a system of crop rotation.
AWU	**Annual work unit** – is equivalent to a worker employed on a full time basis for one year.
DG ENT	Enterprise and Industry
DG ENV	Environment
DG ESTAT	Eurostat
DG EMP	Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
DG MARE	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
DG REGIO	Regional Policy
DG TREN	Energy and Transport
EEA	European Environment Agency
EU 22	22 countries with a sea coast
EUR	Euro
GDP	Gross domestic product
GVA	Gross value added
ha	Hectare (1 ha = 10 000 square metres)
Inhab.	Inhabitants
km	Kilometre
km²	Square kilometre
LFS	Labour force survey
LU	**Livestock unit** – is equivalent to a dairy cow. The number of animals is converted into LSU using a set of coefficients reflecting the feed requirements of the different animal categories.
NUTS	Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics
SGM	**Standard gross margin** – estimated for each activity on a farm, based on the area or the number of heads. The sum of such margins in a farm is its economic size, expressed in **European Size units** (**ESU**, 1ESU is a 1200-euro SGM)

Country codes
Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Lithuania (LT), Malta (MT), The Netherlands (NL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and United Kingdom (UK).

Further information

Data: Eurostat Website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Data on "General and Regional statistics":
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/themes

(Select General and Regional Statistics)

More information about "General and Regional Statistics":
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/themes

Journalists can contact the media support service:

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