

## Seafood exports pose a growing trend

So far this year Norwegian seafood exports have totalled NOK 28.8 billion (USD 3.5 billion) in profits, which is an increase of 26 per cent year-on-year.

"Norwegian seafood exports are booming. By volume, exports are slightly down during the first four months of this year, but by value we see a gain of NOK 5.9 billion (USD 733.5 million) compared with the same period last year. This is due to strong demand and high prices for Norwegian seafood, combined with a continuing favourable currency situation", pointed out Communications Director Geir Håvard Hanssen with the Norwegian Seafood Council.

"Salmon and trout have been the main contributors to strong export growth. Salmon has seen average prices of NOK 56.81 per kilo so far this year, compared with an average price of NOK 41.89 per kilo in the same period last year. We have seen strong numbers for April, an increase of 35 per cent year-on-year. Part of the explanation for this is the early Easter holiday and so less holidays during the April month, compared with last year", Hanssen stressed.

Salmon exports were worth NOK 18.2 billion during the first four months of 2016, which is an increase of 25 per cent year on year. In April, exports of salmon generated NOK 4.9 billion, 40 per cent more than in the same month last year.

The average price achieved for whole fresh Norwegian salmon in April was NOK 57.39 per kilo, compared with NOK 39.89 per kilo in the same month a year ago. Poland and France were the biggest buyers during the first quarter.

Trout exports totalled NOK 1.3 billion, an increase of 117 per cent compared to the first four months of 2015. Exports of trout amounted to NOK 405 million in April, which is an increase of 174 per cent compared to the fourth month a year ago. Year to date, the biggest buyers have been Belarus and Japan.

Norway also exported fresh cod, including fillets, in the first four months of 2016 for a total NOK 1.4 billion, representing an increase of 20 per cent. In April, these exports were NOK 315 million, which is a growth of 14 per cent year on year.

Frozen cod, including fillets totalled NOK 925 million, which is a 54 per cent increase. In April, these exports reached NOK 228 million, an increase of 43 per cent compared with the same month a year ago.

Clifish have also been exported for a total of NOK 1.1 billion, which is a decrease of 9 per cent over the first four months of 2015. In April, these exports reached NOK 256 million, an increase of 31 per cent compared with the same month in 2015.

Salted fish exports grew 16 per cent, to NOK 695 million. In April, these exports were worth NOK 256 million, remaining at the same level as in the same month last year.

During the first four months of this year, herring exports totalled NOK 980 million, which is an increase of 71 per cent compared to the same period in 2015. In April, the exports of this species reached NOK 126 million, which is a 60 per cent growth

compared to the same month in 2015. Poland and Germany were the biggest markets for herring.

Mackerel exports totalled NOK 931 million, representing an increase of 50 per cent. In April, mackerel exports reached NOK 160 million, which is an increase of 99 per cent compared to the same month in 2015. Japan and Nigeria were the largest export markets.

NOK 1 = USD 0.12432

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