

2.2 The Fishery Sector Within The Chilean Economy

According to the Central Bank of Chile, the fishery sector contributed 1.07% to Chile's GDP in 1993 (based on 1986 pesos). This represented a slight decrease from the 1992 level of 1.12% of GDP. Although the sector constitutes a relatively small percentage of the country's total economic output, its importance to Chile's export effort is significant. In 1993, Chile earned US\$1.172 billion, or 12.4% of total Chilean export revenues, from fish and fish product exports (down from 1992 export revenues of US\$1.295 billion). Over the period 1989 to 1993 fishing exports have accounted for between 10 and 13 percent of the nation's total exports.

The role that the industry plays in generating and attracting foreign capital is also noteworthy. Beyond what has been earned in export revenues, the fishery sector can be credited with attracting US\$13.226 million of foreign investment in 1993, the bulk of which went into processing activities (US\$11.611 million). From 1990 to 1993, total materialized foreign investment (as defined by Decree Law 600) was US\$36.231 million. Provisional figures for the period corresponding to January to July, 1994 indicate that foreign investment in the Chilean fishing industry is already in excess of US\$14 million.

TOTAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CHILE'S FISHERY SECTOR DECREE LAW 600, 1990 - 1994 (thousands of US\$)

CATEGORY	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994*
Aquaculture	5,560	4,717	1,365	555	647
Processing	4,893	1,255	5,050	11,611	12,589
Other	165	0	0	1,061	1,060
TOTAL	10,618	5,972	6,415	13,226	14,296
Total DL 600 Investment	1,322,242	980,536	995,509	1,694,933	1,333,653
Fisheries Investment as a % of Total	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.8%	1.1%

* Estimate

As a creator of employment, the fishing industry now employs approximately 124,000 workers or 2.6% of Chile's entire labour force (100,601 permanent and 23,456 temporary employees). Of the total, 44.3% are involved in artisanal activities, 13.5% in aquaculture, 14.9% in the industrial fishing fleet, and 27.3% in processing plants.