

Slump in European sales at tuna giant John West fails to impact profits

A slump in European sales failed to impact profits at John West Foods during its latest financial year, new documents have revealed.

The Liverpool-headquartered company has posted a turnover of £148.1m for 2021, down from £171.5m in 2020.

Sales in the UK dropped from £150m to £139.2m in the year while they were cut from £20.8m to £8.4m in the rest of Europe. Turnover in other geographical regions rose from £413,000 to £508,000.

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The company's pre-tax profits dipped slightly from £9.3m to £9.1m in the year.

The business was founded in 1857 and produces canned salmon and tuna, as well as mackerel, sardine, herring, brisling, anchovies and shellfish.

It is currently owned by Thai Union Group of Thailand after being acquired in 2010.

A statement signed off by the board said: "During the year the business continued its policy of launching new, innovative products into the UK market and intends to continue to do this during 2022.

"The company's principal activities continue to be the purchase, marketing and sale of food for human consumption.

“The company continues to focus on being a leading supplier of canned fish in a number of countries.

“Its core market in the UK remains strong and the company continues to maintain strong shares in its key categories.

“Future developments may include additions to product ranges and entry, where appropriate, into new food market sectors.”

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