



## ATLANTIC MACKEREL (*SCOMBER SCOMBRUS*)



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### BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

- **Species description** ([Read more](#))

The Atlantic mackerel is a fast-swimming schooling pelagic fish, it belongs to the family of *Scombridae*.

- **Geographical distribution and habitat** ([Read more](#))

The species can be found in an area spanning from Northwestern Africa up to the Barents Sea including Svalbard, and westward to Iceland and Greenland.

### RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Stock and resource status/conservation measures** ([Read more](#))

Minimum conservation sizes are set at 18 cm of total length in the Mediterranean and 20 cm or 30 cm in the other fishing areas. Catches are managed through TACs and quotas.

- **Production methods and fishing gears** ([Read more](#))

The Atlantic mackerel is caught through a diversity of gears, including driftnets, gillnets and similar nets, hooks and lines, pots and traps, purse seines, seines, trawls, and troll lines.

Source: [Information system on commercial designations](#)

## Atlantic mackerel

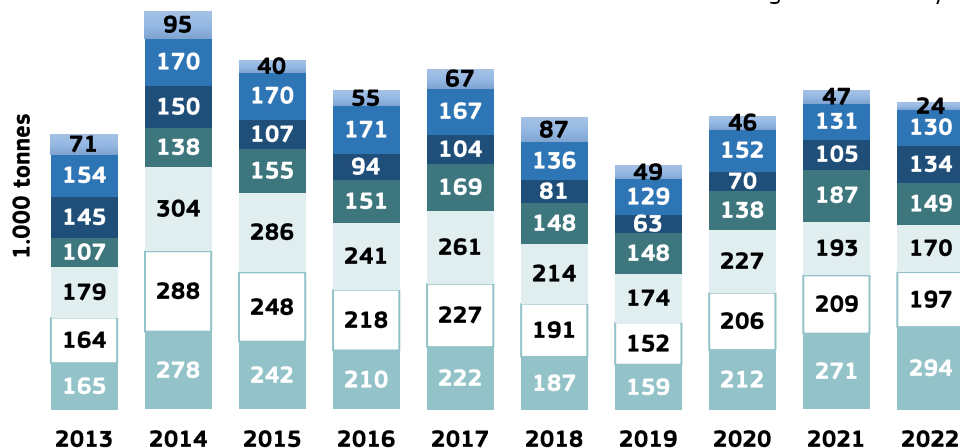


## CATCHES

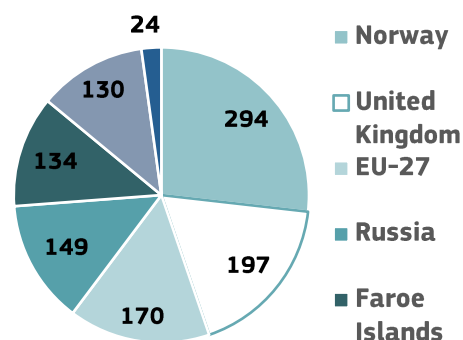
## Evolution of world catches

- Atlantic mackerel catches reached circa 1.100.000 tonnes in 2022, i.e. **1%** of the global catches. The largest catching nations were Norway and the United Kingdom, together accounting for 45% of global catches in 2022. The EU constitutes the third largest producer (16%). During the last decade (2013-2022), Atlantic mackerel catches have increased by 11% at global level in relation to the increase of the Norwegian and the British catches (+79% and 20% respectively). For 2023, ICES advised a TAC of no more than 782.000 tonnes, a 2% decrease from the TAC advice in 2022.

■ Others ■ Iceland ■ Faroe Islands ■ Russia ■ EU-27 ■ United Kingdom ■ Norway



Catches (2022, 1.000 tonnes)

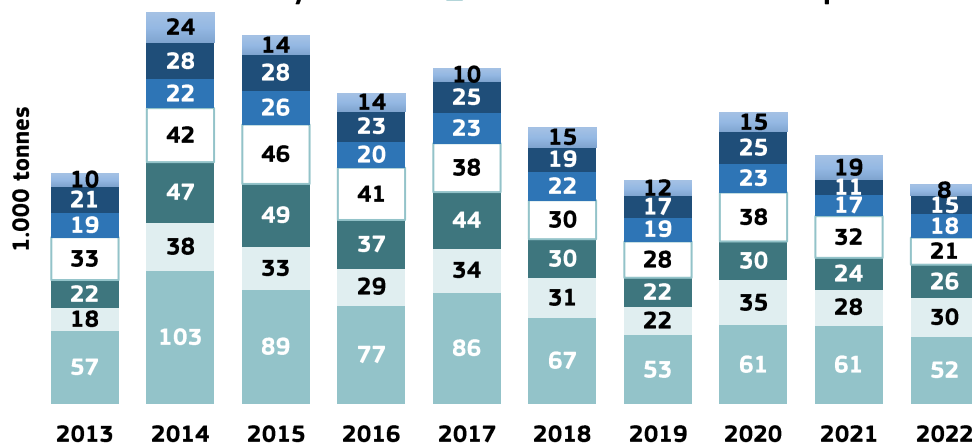


Source: FAO

## Evolution of EU catches

- In 2022, the EU catches of Atlantic mackerel reached circa 170.000 tonnes. The EU catches have decreased by 5% during the last decades. Irish and Danish catches decreased respectively by 8% and 37% but while catches from Spain and the Netherlands have increased by 66% and 20%. Ireland was the first producer of Atlantic mackerel in EU with 31% of the European volume, followed by Spain, the Netherlands, and Denmark (17%, 15%, and 12% of the European catches respectively).

■ Others ■ Germany ■ France ■ Denmark ■ Netherlands ■ Spain ■ Ireland



Source: FAO

## Atlantic mackerel



## AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

- No aquaculture production of Atlantic mackerel has been developed, as it would not be competitive (low sale prices).

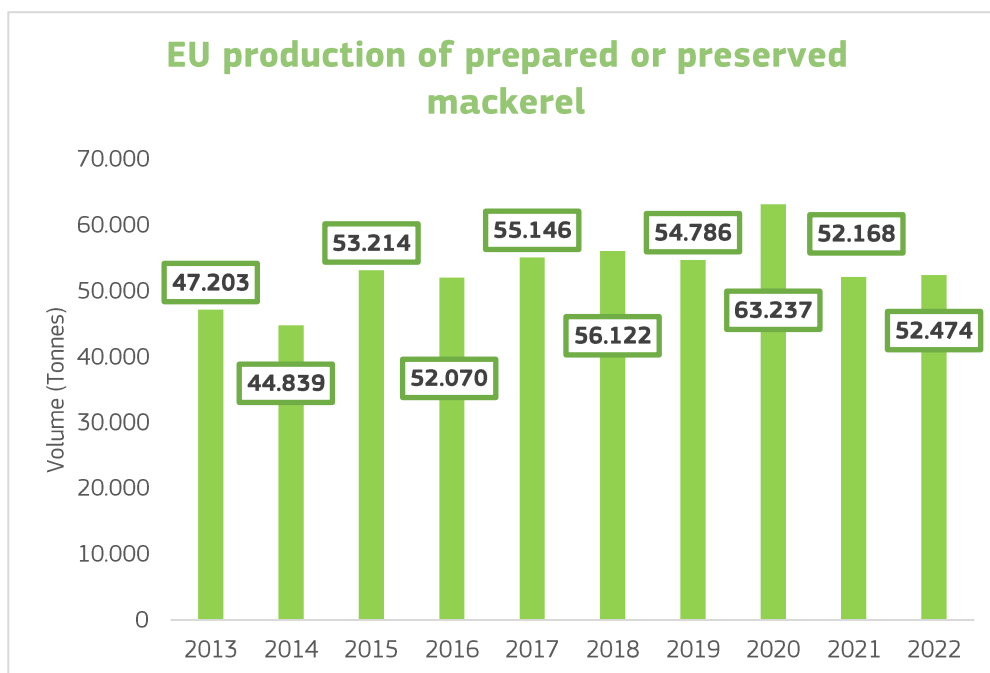
## PROCESSING

Most of the mackerel in the EU is consumed prepared or preserved, and a large share of this is processed in the EU.

- There is one [PRODCOM](#) code referring to mackerel:
  - 10 20 25 50: prepared or preserved mackerel

- Prepared/preserved mackerel**

The EU production of prepared/preserved mackerel was estimated to 52.474 tonnes. The EU production of prepared/preserved mackerel increased by 11% since 2013. In 2022, Poland and France were the main EU producers with a production over 21.00 tonnes and 16.000 tonnes respectively, representing 72% of EU production in 2022.



Source: EUROSTAT/PRODCOM



## Atlantic mackerel

## TRADE

- [Combined nomenclature](#)

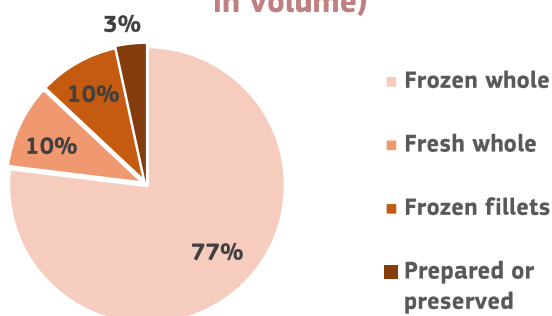
**EU trade of mackerel products (tonnes – 2023)**

Data concern Atlantic mackerel and other species of mackerel (*ie. Scomber japonicus*)

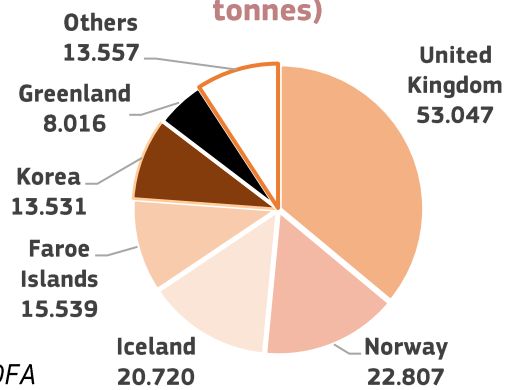
CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03024400	Fresh or chilled mackerel "Scomber scombrus, Scomber australasicus, Scomber japonicus"	14.774	23.639
03035410	Frozen mackerel "Scomber scombrus, Scomber japonicus"	110.827	89.222
03035490	Frozen mackerel "Scomber australasicus"	2.326	196
03048941	Frozen fillets of mackerel "Scomber australasicus"	71	22
03048949	Frozen fillets of mackerel "Scomber scombrus, Scomber japonicus" and fish of the species <i>Orcynopsis unicolor</i>	14.074	140
03054930	Smoked mackerel "Scomber scombrus, Scomber australasicus, Scomber japonicus", incl. fillets (excl. offal)	147	547
16041511	Fillets of mackerel of the species <i>Scomber scombrus</i> and <i>Scomber japonicus</i> , prepared or preserved	3.138	8.275
16041519	Mackerel of the species <i>Scomber scombrus</i> and <i>Scomber japonicus</i> , prepared or preserved, whole or in pieces (excl. minced mackerel and fillets of mackerel)	716	1.709
16041590	Prepared or preserved mackerel of species <i>Scomber australasicus</i> , whole or in pieces (excl. minced)	1.144	39
<b>Total</b>		<b>147.217</b>	<b>123.788</b>

- Extra-EU imports** reached over 147.400 tonnes in 2023, of which 86% were frozen. EU imports from the United Kingdom represented 36% of total EU imports of mackerel in terms of volume in 2023. The main importers in 2023 were the Netherlands (34% of the imported volume), a large share of the import to the Netherlands is re-exported to African countries such as Nigeria and Egypt. Denmark and Poland were the second and third largest importers, representing 13% and 12% of total imports volume respectively.

**Imports by product type (2023, % in volume)**



**Main EU suppliers (2023, tonnes)**



Source: EUMOFA



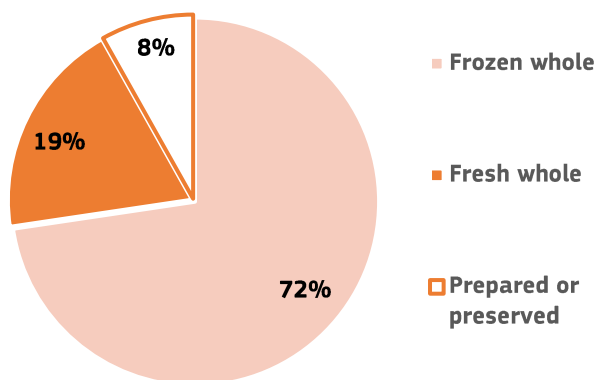
## Atlantic mackerel

### TRADE

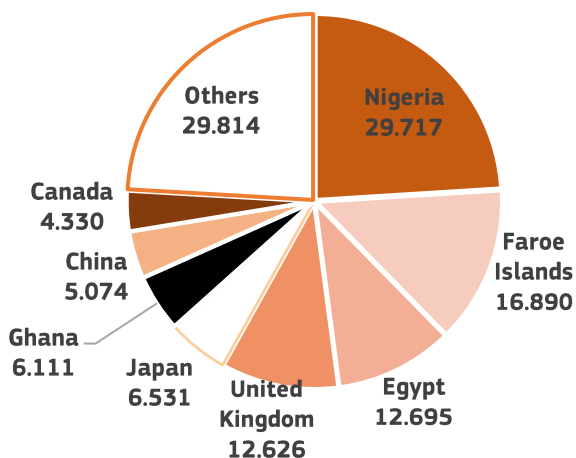
- Extra-EU exports:**

Mackerel is one of the most exported fish by EU Member States. In 2023, volumes totaled over 123.700 tonnes. Almost three quarter (72%) of mackerels were exported frozen and 58% of the EU-exports originated from Ireland and the Netherlands. Other mackerel exporters included Denmark (25% of the volume exported) and Spain (11%). In 2023, Nigeria (24% of the total exported volume), Faroe Islands (14%), Egypt (10%), and the United Kingdom (10%) were the main markets for EU exports.

**Exports by product type (2023, % in volume)**



**Main destinations (2023, tonnes)**



Source: EUMOFA

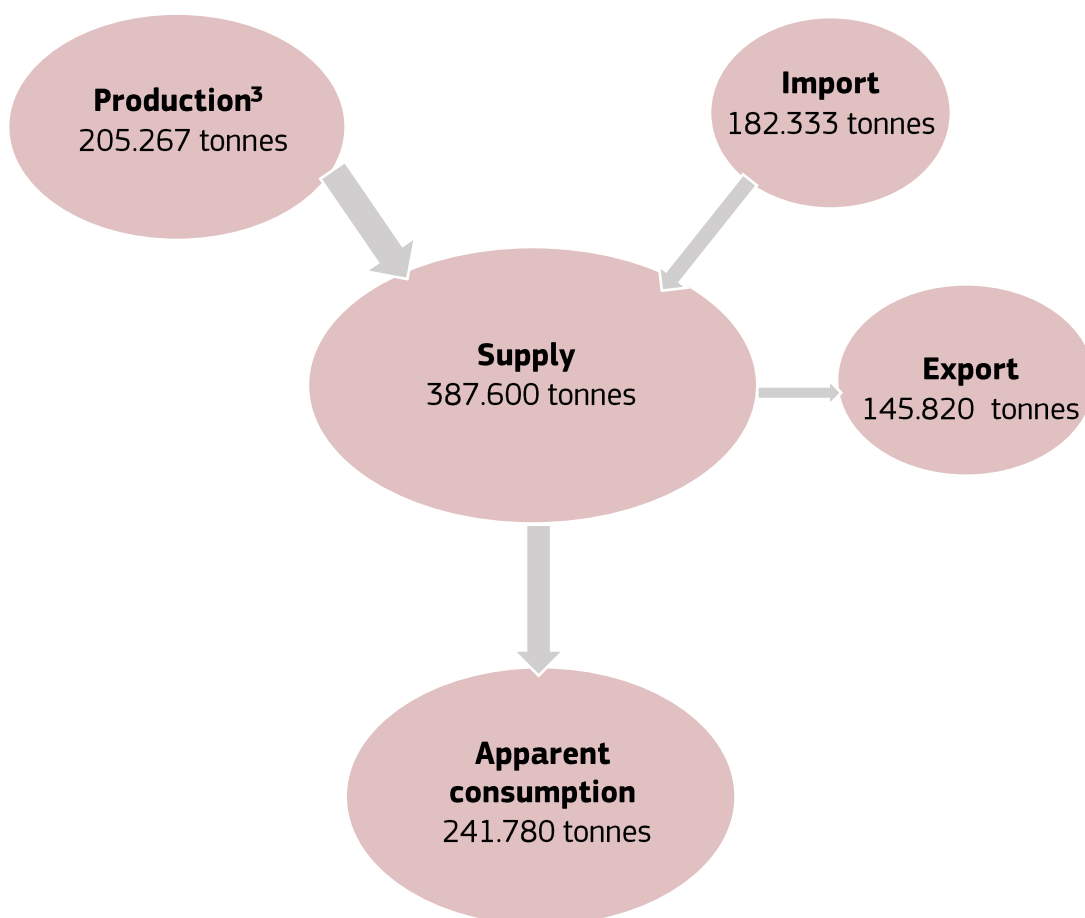


## Atlantic mackerel

### Supply balance

#### EU supply balance (2022<sup>1</sup>) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent<sup>2</sup> – Mackerel:

*Data concern Atlantic mackerel and other species of mackerel*



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

<sup>1</sup> Supply balance is provided for the year 2022 (trade data for 2022 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slides 4 and 5 concern the year 2023.

<sup>2</sup> The [conversion factors](#) were used to convert net weight of imports and exports of fishery and aquaculture products into live weight equivalents.

<sup>3</sup> Production figure used in this supply chain is different from the production figure provided in the slide on catches (i.e. slide 2) as other species of mackerel have been considered



## Atlantic mackerel

# PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

## First-sale (whole)

First-sale prices are provided for one of the main EU producers of Atlantic mackerel: Ireland, Denmark, Netherlands and Spain.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
<b>Denmark, fresh</b>	0,93	1,12	1,22	1,51	1,67	1,45	1,56	1,71	2,00	1,99	EUMOFA
<b>Ireland, fresh</b>	n.a.	0,76	0,87	0,80	0,90	0,89	0,87	0,92	1,20	1,07	EUMOFA
<b>Netherlands, fresh</b>	1,87	2,04	2,03	2,07	2,31	1,69	1,87	1,83	1,90	2,40	EUMOFA
<b>Netherlands, frozen</b>	n.a.	n.a.	1,00	1,00	0,99	0,81	1,00	0,24	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
<b>Spain, fresh</b>	1,91	2,08	2,17	2,27	2,55	2,34	2,60	2,63	2,83	3,13	EUMOFA
<b>Spain, frozen</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,21	0,98	0,99	1,16	1,29	1,40	1,60	EUMOFA

(\*) From January to November 2024

## Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are reported for France.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
<b>France "maquereau de chalut"</b>	2,84	3,12	3,41	3,37	3,61	3,49	3,77	4,21	4,43	4,28	Rungis (RNM)
<b>France "maquereau de ligne"</b>	4,77	5,32	4,88	4,46	5,7	4,44	4,85	5,18	5,85	5,19	Rungis (RNM)

(\*) From January to November 2024

## Retail/consumption

Retail prices are reported for Poland and France.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
<b>Poland</b>	3,38	3,30	3,59	3,66	4,03	4,13	4,11	4,79	5,32	5,98	EUMOFA
<b>France</b>	6,35	6,85	7,11	7,31	7,57	7,58	7,94	8,25	8,42	8,58	EUMOFA

(\*) From January to November 2024



Atlantic mackerel

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN  
(EUR/kg)

Data concern Atlantic mackerel and other species of mackerel

Import (frozen whole)

EU imports from third countries concern mainly frozen mackerel. The Netherlands was the largest EU importer in 2023.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Netherlands	1,13	1,24	1,26	1,4	1,69	1,51	1,57	1,69	1,81	1,84	EUMOFA

(\*) From January to August 2024

Export (frozen whole)

The Netherlands is by far the main EU exporter of mackerel. The Dutch exports are mainly composed of frozen whole mackerel.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Netherlands	1,18	1,17	1,28	1,29	1,54	1,74	2,26	1,88	1,98	2,16	EUMOFA

(\*) From January to August 2023





## Atlantic mackerel

### MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#))
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more](#))
- Applicable marketing standard ([Read more](#))

### CONSUMPTION

- Apparent consumption per capita of mackerel (all species) in 2022: **0,54 kg** live weight equivalent, giving mackerel (all species included) a twelfth-place ranking among the most consumed fish species in the EU (source: [Supply balance - 2022](#), EUMOFA). Mackerel experienced a 10% decrease in consumption from 2018, mainly due to lower catches in Spain.
- Nutritional value (Atlantic mackerel, nutrition values per serving 100g) ([Read more](#))

Nutrition values	Mackerel
Energy (kcal)	205
Total fat (g)	13,89
Saturates (g)	3,257
Carbohydrate (g)	0
Sugars (g)	0
Protein (g)	18,6
Salt (mg)	225