



SQUID

(*Ommastrephidae*, *Loliginidae*)



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BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

- **Species description** [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#)

The appellation squid covers a wide range of cephalopods. The main commercial species belong to the Ommastrephidae and Loliginidae families (*Illex* and *Loligo* genus). Squids are cephalopods in the superorder Decapodiformes with elongated bodies, large eyes, eight arms and two tentacles.

The main species caught at global level are Jumbo flying squid and Argentine shortfin squid.

- **Geographical distribution and habitat** [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#)

Squids are abundant species, among the most landed fishery products in the global seafood market. They have a worldwide distribution and can be found in all seas and oceans.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

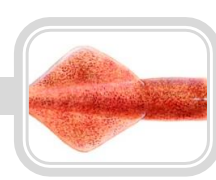
- **Stock and resource status/conservation measures**

There is no conservation measure for squid species.

- **Production methods and fishing gears** [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#)

The main fishing gears used are the trawls. Other gears include beach-seines, gillnets, and trammel nets.

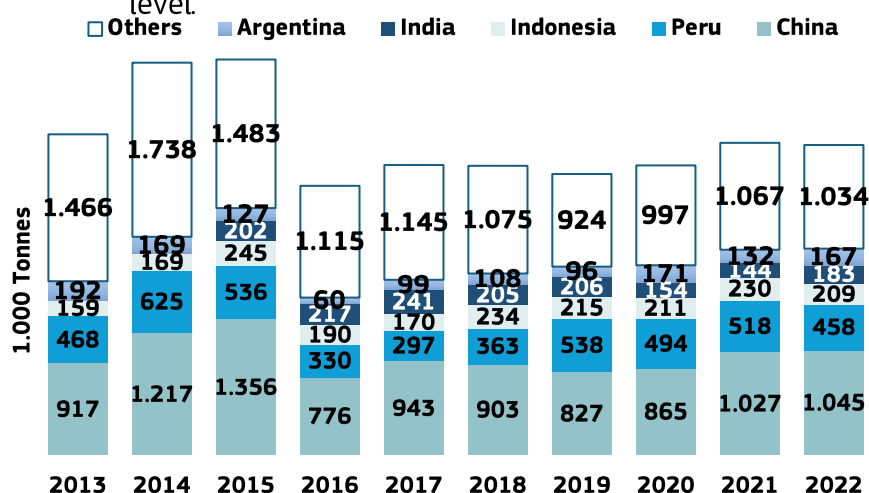
Source: [Information system on commercial designations](#)



CATCHES

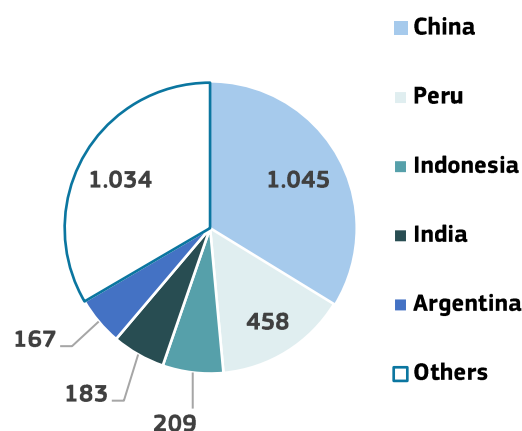
Evolution of world catches

- Squid catches reached over 3.095.671 tonnes in 2022, i.e. **3,3%** of the global catches (Jumbo squid catches amounted to 1.076.428 tonnes and this species was mainly caught by the Chinese and Peruvian fleets). The main producers were China and Peru, representing 49% of the global catches in 2022, followed by Indonesia, India, and Argentina (respectively 7%, 6%, and 5% of the global catches). The EU catches represented 2% of the global captures in 2022. During the last decade (2013-2022), squid catches have slightly decreased (-3%) at global level.

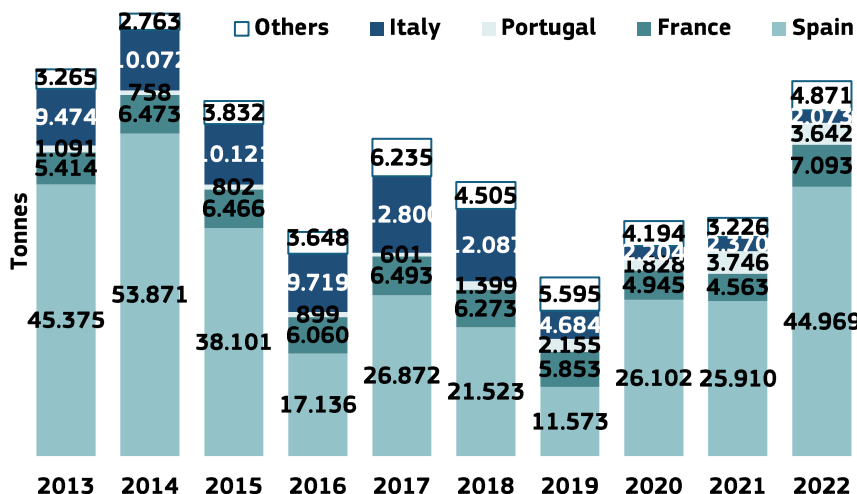


Source: FAO

Catches (2022, 1.000 tonnes)

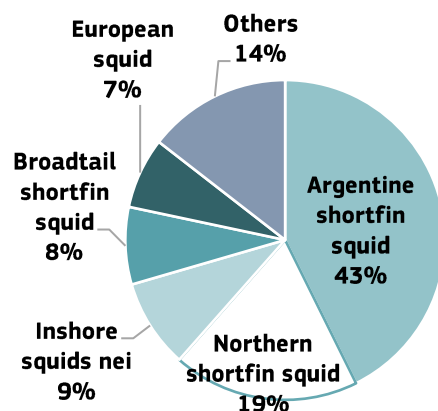


- Squid catches in the EU reached 62.648 tonnes in 2022, catches of the Argentine shortfin squid reached represented 43% of the EU captures. Spain was by far the main producer, representing 72% of the EU catches, followed by France and Portugal (respectively 11% and 6% of the catches). During the last decade (2013-2022), EU squid catches have decreased by 3% in relation to the decrease of the Italian catches (-78%).

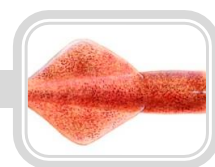


Source: FAO

Catches (2022, % of volume)



Squid

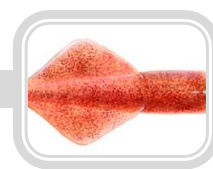


AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

- No aquaculture production of European squid has been developed.

PROCESSING

- There is no [PRODCOM](#) code referring to squid.



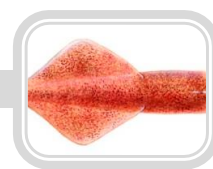
TRADE

- [Combined nomenclature](#)

EU trade of squid products (tonnes – 2023)

CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 07 42 20	Squid "Loligo spp.", live, fresh or chilled	3.881	74
03 07 42 30	Squid "Ommastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.", live, fresh or chilled	49	142
03 07 42 40	European flying squid "Todarodes sagittatus", live, fresh or chilled	9	50
03 07 43 31	Squid "Loligo vulgaris", frozen	17.846	94
03 07 43 33	Squid "Loligo pealei", frozen	2.203	43
03 07 43 35	Squid "Loligo gahi", frozen	66.044	3.720
03 07 43 38	Squid "Loligo spp.", frozen (excl. "Loligo vulgaris, pealei and gahi")	62.780	785
03 07 43 91	Squid "Ommastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.", frozen (excl. "Ommastrephes sagittatus")	8.615	264
03 07 43 92	Squid "Illex spp.", frozen	29.254	11.447
03 07 43 95	European flying squid "Todarodes sagittatus, Ommastrephes sagittatus", frozen	110	231
03 07 49 40	Squid "Loligo spp.", smoked, dried, salted or in brine	133	106
03 07 49 50	Squid "Ommastrephes spp., Nototodarus spp., Sepioteuthis spp.", smoked, dried, salted or in brine (excl. "Ommastrephes sagittatus")	0	7
03 07 49 60	European flying squid "Todarodes sagittatus, Ommastrephes sagittatus", smoked, dried, salted or in brine	0	93
Total		190.925	17.057

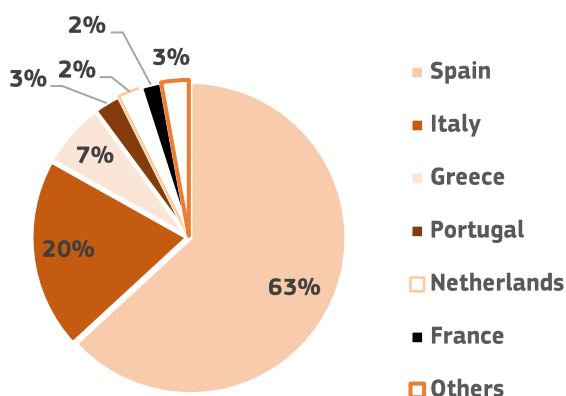
Source: EUMOFA



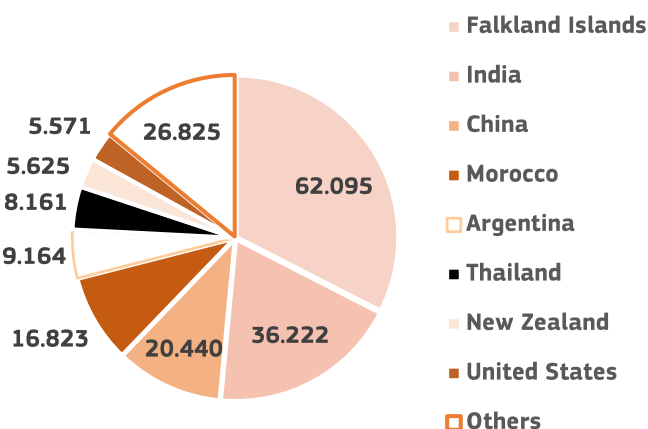
TRADE

- Extra-EU imports** reached over 190.900 tonnes in 2023, of which 98% were frozen. In 2023, EU imports originated mostly from the Falkland Islands (33% of the volume imported) and to a lesser extent from India and China (respectively 19% and 11% of the volume imported). The same year, the main importers within the EU were Spain (63% of the imported volume) and Italy (20%).

EU importers (2023, % in volume)



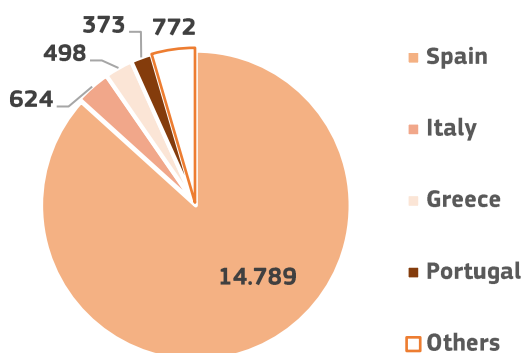
Main EU suppliers (2023, tonnes)



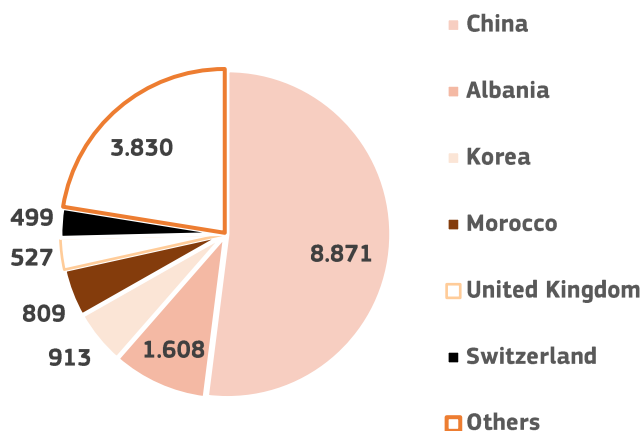
- Extra-EU exports:**

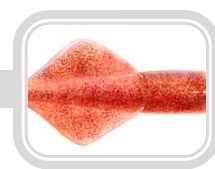
In 2023, export volumes of squid totaled 17.058 tonnes. Exports were made almost exclusively of frozen squids (97%). Spain was by far the first EU exporter, representing 87% of the exported volume. Other EU exporters included Italy, Greece, and Portugal, representing 9% of the EU exported volume in 2022. China, Albania, South Korea and Morocco were the main destination markets, representing 72% of EU exports.

EU exporters (2023, in tonnes)



Main destinations (2023, tonnes)

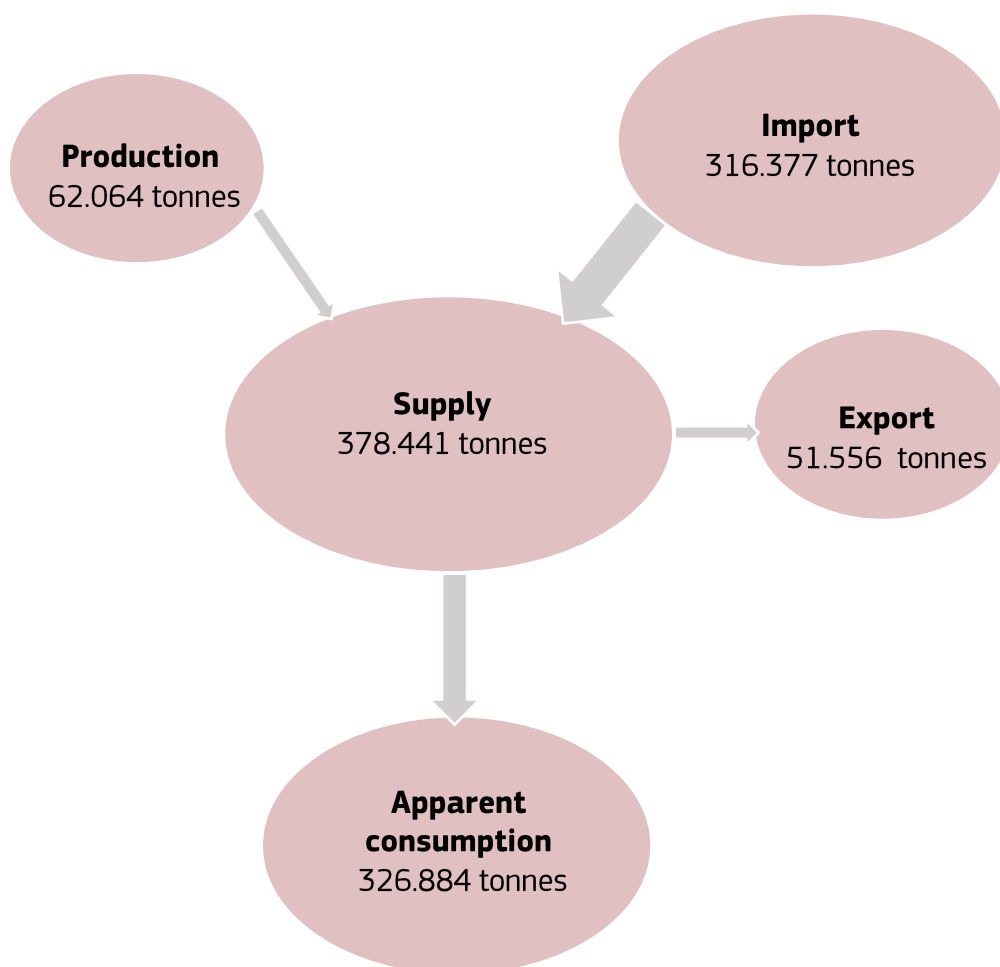




Supply balance

EU supply balance (2022¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Squid

Data concern all species of squid



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ 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.

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



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale (whole)

First-sale prices are provided for the main EU producers (Spain, France and Italy). The vast majority of frozen first sales occurred in Spain and concerned Argentine shortfin squid. Data concern all species of squid.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain - fresh	6,62	5,70	6,97	6,44	8,41	7,66	5,56	4,57	6,56	7,19	EUMOFA
Spain - frozen	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,21	2,67	3,53	2,86	3,37	3,75	4,17	EUMOFA
France - fresh	8,32	9,48	9,48	10,43	9,98	9,57	10,51	11,25	10,92	10,54	EUMOFA
Italy - fresh	8,36	8,70	8,01	8,55	7,96	8,52	9,48	10,28	10,57	11,41	EUMOFA
Italy - frozen	7,09	7,44	7,29	5,72	4,73	2,88	4,06	4,75	3,32	4,17	EUMOFA

(*) From January to November 2024

Wholesale

Wholesale prices are reported for Rungis (France) and Mercamadrid (Madrid, Spain).

Most frequent prices	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
France- fresh whole	12,85	12,91	11,6	13,06	16,15	14,49	16,04	19,3	17,71	15,37	Rungis (RNM)
France - frozen whole (imported)	4,8	4,8	4,8	5,68	7,0	7,0	7,0	7,48	8,58	9,0	Rungis (RNM)
Spain - fresh whole	10,22	11,16	12,84	14,56	13,04	11,81	13,01	15,97	15,97	15,54	Mercamadrid
Spain - frozen whole	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5,38	5,38	5,87	8,23	10,98	9,40	Mercamadrid

(*) From January to November 2024

Retail/Consumption

Retail prices are reported for France and Spain.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
France - fresh	n.a.	8,7	9,6	10,3	10,3	10,5	9,6	10,2	10,1	FranceAgriMer
Spain - frozen	6,26	7,44	7,82	7,95	8,31	8,81	8,87	9,87	10,85	MAPA
Spain - canned	6,35	6,59	6,87	7,78	8,07	8,01	7,99	8,66	9,03	

(*) Last year available



Squid

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Data concern all species of squid

Import (frozen)

EU imports from third countries concern mainly frozen squids from the species *Illex spp*, *Ommastrephes spp* and *Loligo spp*. Main importers in 2023 were Spain and Italy.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain	2,78	4,01	3,83	3,65	3,81	4,50	4,56	5,68	5,46	5,22	EUMOFA
Italy	3,92	4,9	5,43	5,18	5,6	5,95	6,24	7,64	7,47	6,72	EUMOFA

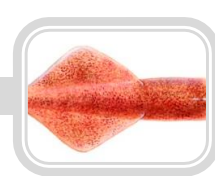
(*) From January to August 2024

Export (frozen)

Spain was by far the main EU exporter of squids in 2023. Spanish exports are mainly composed of frozen squids from the species *Illex spp*, *Ommastrephes spp* and *Loligo spp*.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain	2,25	3,96	2,92	2,73	2,64	5,26	5,35	5,60	7,24	6,40	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2024



Squid

MARKETING

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

CONSUMPTION

- 9th most consumed species in the EU (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2023 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption of squid (all species included) per capita in 2022: **0,73 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [Supply balance - 2022](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (Squid, nutrition values per serving 100g) ([1](#)) ([2](#))

Nutrition values	Jumbo flying squid - <i>Dosidicus gigas</i>	Argentine shortfin squid - <i>Illex argentinus</i>
Energy (kcal)	92	92
Total fat (g)	1,38	1,38
Saturates (g)	0,358	0,358
Carbohydrate (g)	3,08	3,08
Sugars (g)	0	0
Protein (g)	15,58	15,58
Salt (mg)	110	110