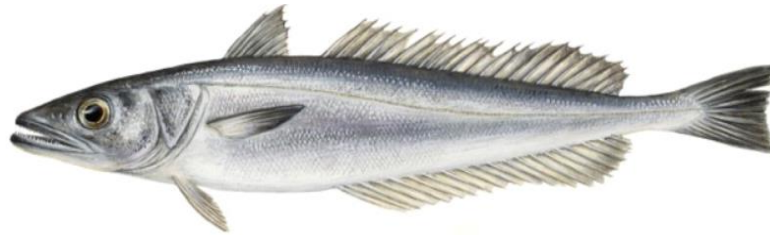




EUROPEAN HAKE (*MERLUCCIUS MERLUCCIUS*)



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

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

The European hake is a slim bodied fish of the genus *Merluccius*, with a large head and large jaws on which are set a number of large curved teeth.

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

The European hake lives in the North-East Atlantic, Eastern-Central Atlantic, and can also be found in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

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

Minimum conservation size is set at 30 cm in Skagerrak and Kattegat, 20 cm in the Mediterranean Sea, and 27 cm in all the other fishing areas.

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

The main fishing gears used are gillnets and similar nets, hooks and lines, and trawls.

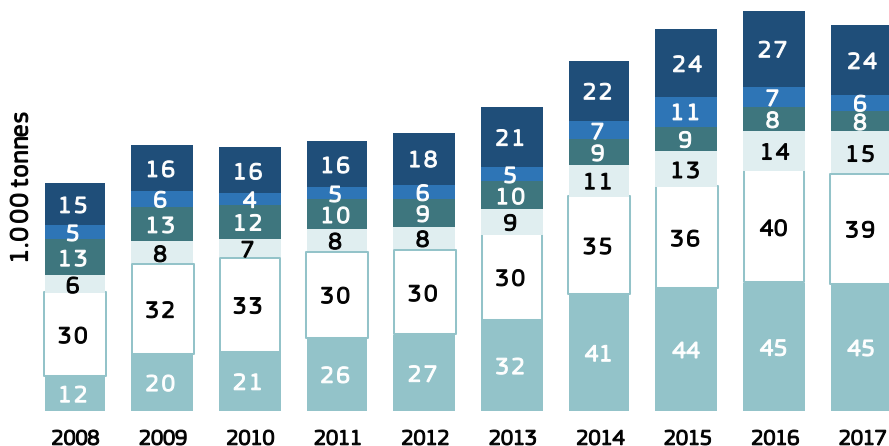


CATCHES

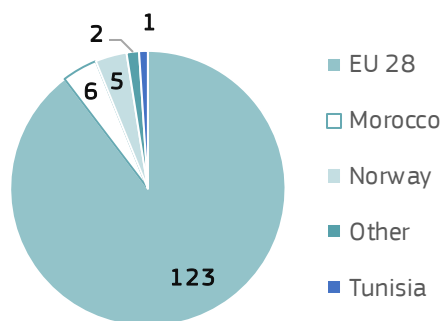
- The share of hake in the global catches is **0,15%** (FAO, 2017).
- During the last decade (2008 to 2017), catches have significantly increased at both global and EU levels (both by 68%). In 2017, France, Spain and the United Kingdom were the main producers. Together, they produced 72% of the global catches of hake in 2017.

Evolution of world catches

Other Morocco Italy United Kingdom Spain France



Catches (2017, 1.000 tonnes)

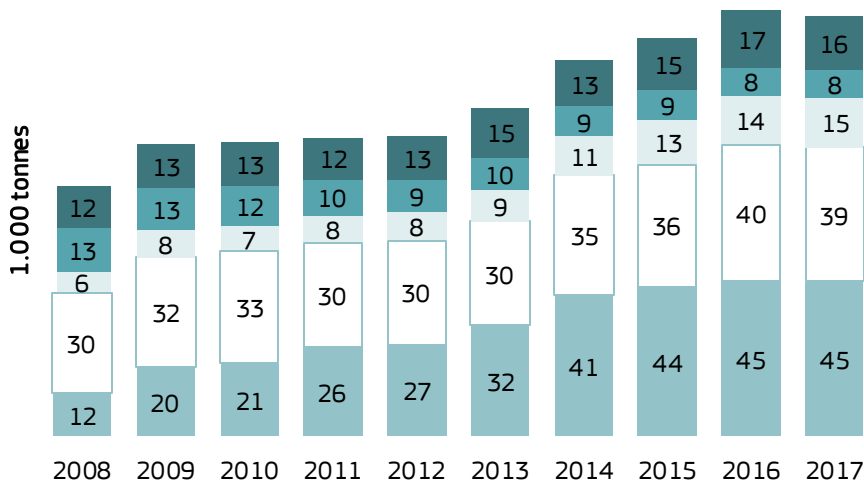


Source: FAO

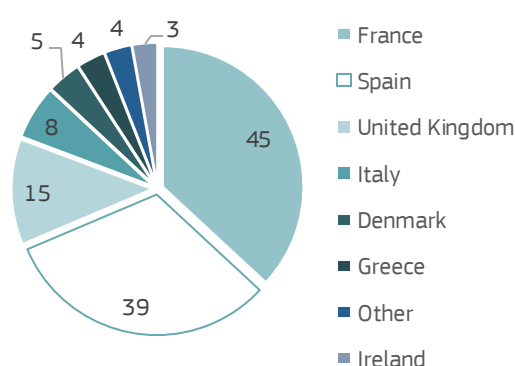
Evolution of EU catches

- In 2017, the EU provided **90%** of the global hake catches.

Other Italy United Kingdom Spain France



Catches (2017, 1.000 tonnes)



Source: FAO



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

- There is no aquaculture production of hake in the EU.

PROCESSING

- There is no significant processing activity of hake in the EU. The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries indicates the existence of frozen industry in Portugal and Spain and filleting activity in Portugal and Slovenia (Source: The Economic Performance of the EU fish Processing Industry, STECF, 2018).



TRADE

- Combined nomenclature ([Read more](#))

EU trade of European hake products (tonnes - 2018)

There are no specific trade code related to the European hake. Data provided in the table below refer to fish categories that include European hake.

CN code	Product	EU imports		EU exports	
		Intra-EU	Extra-EU	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
0302541 9	fresh or chilled hake "merluccius spp." (excl. cape hake, deepwater hake and southern hake)	31.118	3.627	17.461	1.307
0303661 9	frozen hake "merluccius spp." (excl. cape hake, deepwater hake, argentine hake and southern hake)	7.638	7.248	8.789	2.281
0304741 9	frozen fillets of hake "merluccius spp." (excl. cape hake, deepwater hake and argentine hake)	5.316	32.855	4.983	175
0304955 0	frozen meat, whether or not minced, of hake "merluccius spp." (excl. fillets and surimi)	1.626	11.834	3.115	15
1604199 4	hake "merluccius spp., urophycis spp.", prepared or preserved, whole or in pieces (excl. finely minced and fillets, raw, merely coated with batter or breadcrumbs, whether or not pre-fried in oil, frozen)	3.183	1.065	6.149	547

Extra-EU exports mainly concern fresh and frozen products. In 2018, they represented 73% of extra-EU exports of European hake. **Main destinations** are:

- for fresh or chilled European hake: Algeria (1.247 tonnes),
- for frozen hake (whole fish): Serbia (491 tonnes) and Nigeria (354 tonnes).

Extra-EU imports:

Imports from non-EU countries concern mainly frozen hake (whole and in fillets). Main Extra-EU suppliers are:

- for fresh hake (whole): Canada (1.804 tonnes) and Norway (1.600 tonnes),
- for frozen hake (whole): Canada (4.132 tonnes in 2018), Senegal (724 tonnes) and Norway (713 tonnes),
- for frozen meat (excluding fillets): Namibia (4.729 tonnes), United States of America (3.023 tonnes) and Argentina (2.029 tonnes),
- for frozen fillets of hake: United States of America (19.146 tonnes), Peru (5.483 tonnes) and China (5.110 tonnes).



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale (fresh)

First-sale prices are provided for France, Spain and Denmark, which are among the main EU producers.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
France (guttled)	2,46	2,51	2,42	2,45	2,31	2,68	2,57	2,63	2,90	EUMOFA
Spain (whole)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	4,10	4,08	4,41	4,48	EUMOFA
Denmark (guttled)	1,82	1,92	2,15	2,12	2,13	2,15	2,29	2,75	2,84	EUMOFA

Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are provided for the main wholesale markets in France and Spain.

Average price (FR) / Most frequent price (ES)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
France (Paris)	5,87	5,14	4,49	4,60	5,35	4,81	6,54	7,50	Rungis
Spain (Madrid)	9,07	8,54	7,35	7,88	8,56	7,99	8,97	9,62	Mercamadrid

Retail/consumption

Retail prices are provided for France, Spain and Italy, the major EU consumers of hake.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
France (whole)	8,22	9,11	10,19	9,91	10,00	10,55	11,61	10,65	10,67	EUMOFA
Spain (guttled)	12,55	11,80	11,92	12,02	11,94	12,05	12,15	12,15	13,42	EUMOFA
Italy (whole)	10,16	10,10	10,43	12,11	12,30	12,76	9,47	9,92	10,21	EUMOFA

Import (fresh whole)

Import prices are provided for Spain, Italy and Portugal, the three main EU importers in the EU in 2018.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Spain	3,10	3,05	3,26	3,11	3,30	3,49	3,61	3,71	4,11	EUMOFA
Italy	4,14	4,21	4,22	4,08	3,87	4,31	4,86	4,69	4,54	EUMOFA
Portugal	3,36	3,34	3,61	3,71	3,93	4,12	3,98	4,18	4,15	EUMOFA

Export (fresh whole)

Export prices are provided for Spain, Netherlands and Portugal, the main EU exporters in the EU in 2018.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Source
Spain	3,32	3,50	3,88	3,86	4,48	4,32	4,50	4,61	4,38	EUMOFA
Netherlands	2,48	2,25	1,68	2,19	1,63	2,21	3,95	3,62	3,70	EUMOFA
Portugal	3,00	3,10	2,64	2,43	2,67	2,84	2,89	3,15	3,19	EUMOFA



MARKETING ASPECTS

- Commercial designations in all EU official languages ([Read more](#))
- Common marketing standards ([Read more](#))

CONSUMPTION

- Hake is the 8th most consumed fish in the EU.
- Apparent consumption per capita in 2017: **0,94 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2019 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (European hake, Atlantic, cut from whole fish, values per 100 g – source : [USDA](#))

Nutritional value	Hake
Kilo calorie (kcal)	78
Kilojoule (kJ)	326
Protein (g)	17,5
Total lipid (g)	0,88
Carbohydrates (g)	0
Calcium (mg)	44
Iron (mg)	0,95
Sodium (mg)	100
Cholesterol (mg)	20