



## 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

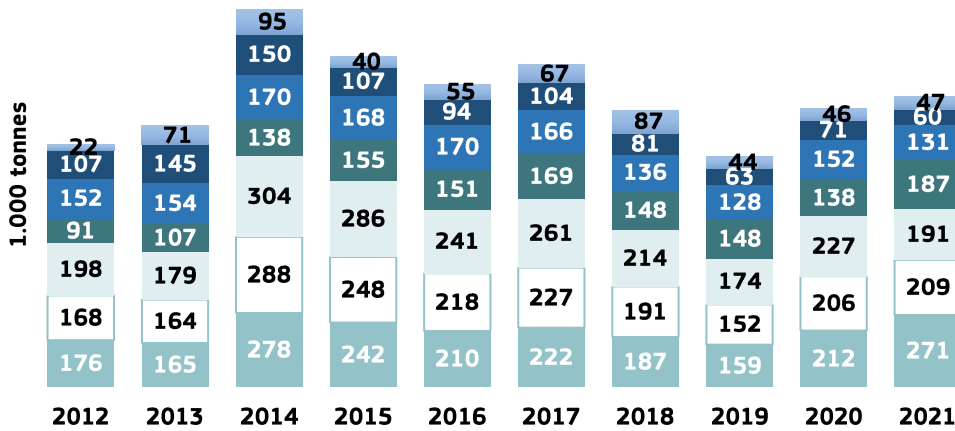


## CATCHES

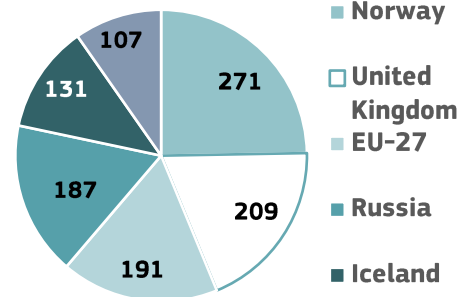
### Evolution of world catches

- Atlantic mackerel catches reached circa 1.100.000 tonnes in 2021, i.e. **1%** of the global catches. The largest catching nations were Norway and the United Kingdom, together accounting for 44% of global catches in 2021. The EU constitutes the third largest producer. During the last decade (2012-2021), Atlantic mackerel catches have increased by 20% at global level in relation to the increase of the Norwegian, the British and the EU catches (+54%, +24%, and +105% respectively). For 2022, ICES advised a TAC of no more than 795.000 tonnes, a 7% decrease from the TAC advice in 2021.

Legend: Others, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Russia, EU-27, United Kingdom, Norway



Catches (2021, 1.000 tonnes)

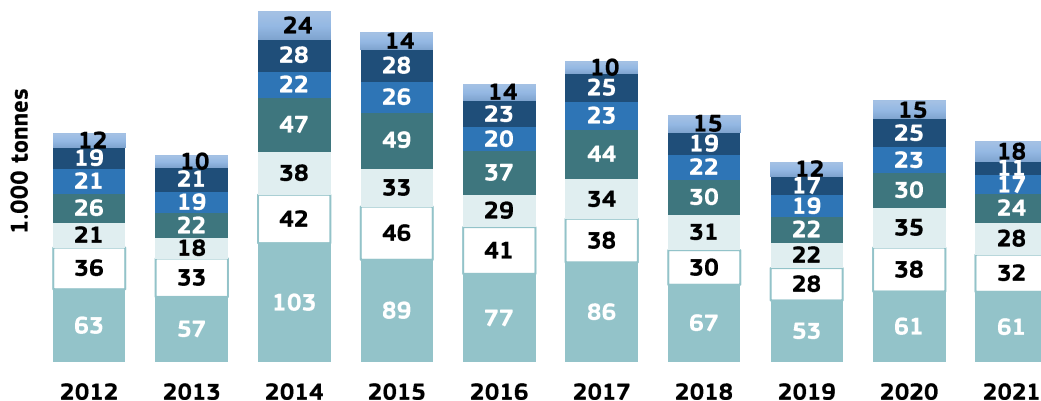


Source: FAO

### Evolution of EU catches

- In 2021, the EU catches of Atlantic mackerel reached circa 191.000 tonnes. The EU catches have decreased by 3% during the last decades. Irish and Danish catches decreased respectively by 4% and 11% but while catches from Spain have increased 32%. Ireland was the first producer of Atlantic mackerel in EU with 32% of the European volume, followed by Denmark, Spain and the Netherlands (17%, 15%, and 13% of the European catches respectively).

Legend: Others, Germany, France, Netherlands, Spain, Denmark, Ireland



Source: FAO



## AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

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

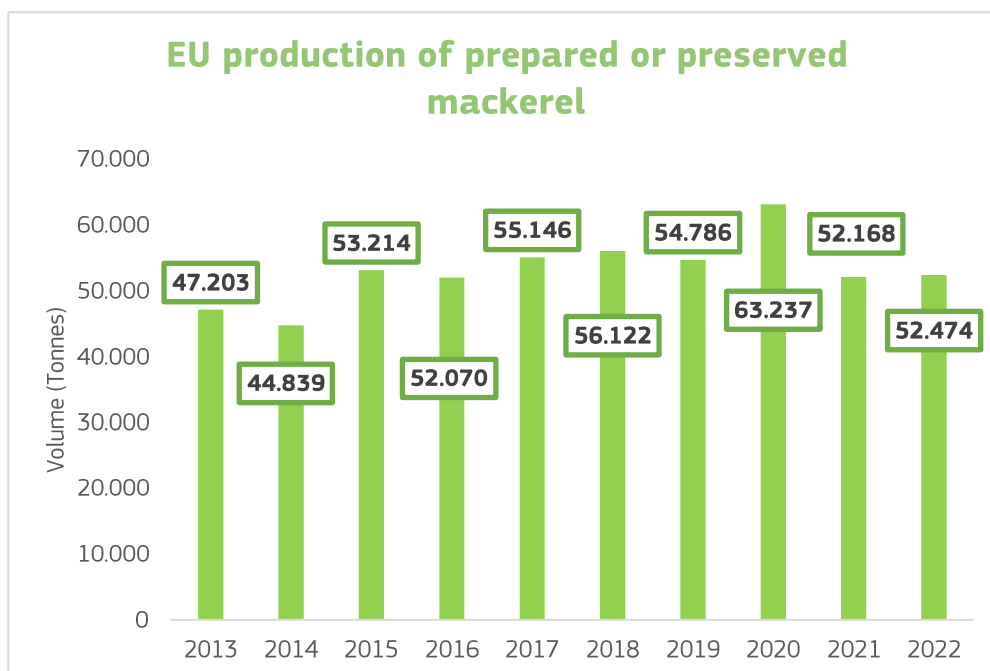
## PROCESSING

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

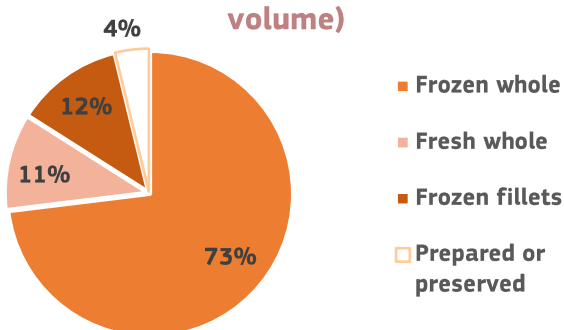
- [Combined nomenclature](#)

### EU trade of mackerel products (tonnes – 2022)

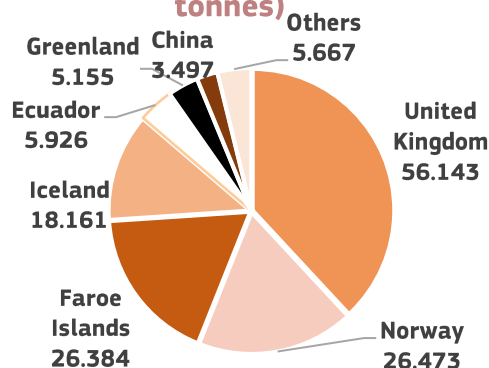
CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03024400	Fresh or chilled mackerel "Scomber scombrus, Scomber australasicus, Scomber japonicus"	16.098	34.977
03035410	Frozen mackerel "Scomber scombrus, Scomber japonicus"	106.972	87.310
03035490	Frozen mackerel "Scomber australasicus"	641	101
03048941	Frozen fillets of mackerel "Scomber australasicus"	108	26
03048949	Frozen fillets of mackerel "Scomber scombrus, Scomber japonicus" and fish of the species <i>Orcynopsis unicolor</i>	17.863	123
03054930	Smoked mackerel "Scomber scombrus, Scomber australasicus, Scomber japonicus", incl. fillets (excl. offal)	114	582
16041511	Fillets of mackerel of the species <i>Scomber scombrus</i> and <i>Scomber japonicus</i> , prepared or preserved	4.360	10.212
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)	611	1.817
16041590	Prepared or preserved mackerel of species <i>Scomber australasicus</i> , whole or in pieces (excl. minced)	638	53
<b>Total</b>		<b>147.406</b>	<b>135.201</b>

- Extra-EU imports** reached over 147.400 tonnes in 2022, of which 73% were frozen. EU imports from the United Kingdom represented 38% of total EU imports of mackerel in terms of volume in 2022. The main importers in 2022 were the Netherlands (41% of the imported volume), a large share of the import to the Netherlands is re-exported to African countries such as Nigeria and Egypt. Poland and Denmark were the second and third largest importers, representing 15% and 13% of total imports volume respectively.

Imports by product type (2022, % in volume)



Main EU suppliers (2022, tonnes)



Source: EUMOFA

## Atlantic mackerel

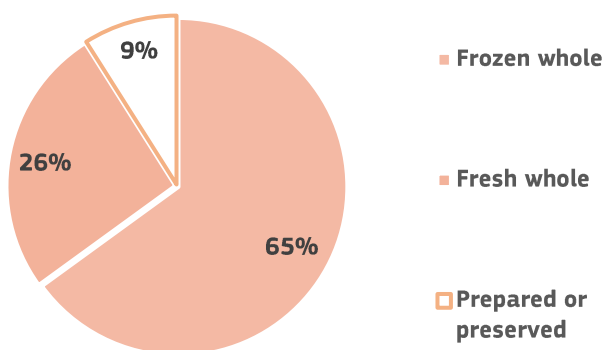


## TRADE

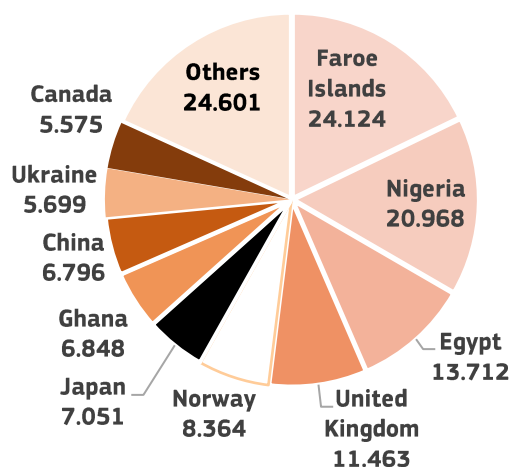
- Extra-EU exports:**

Mackerel is one of the most exported fish by EU Member States. In 2022, volumes totaled over 135.200 tonnes. Almost two thirds (65%) of mackerels were exported frozen and 62% of the EU-exports originated from the Netherlands and Ireland. Other mackerel exporters included Denmark (25% of the volume exported) and Spain (11%). In 2022, Faroe Islands (18% of the total exported volume), Nigeria (16%), Egypt (10%), and the United Kingdom (8%) were the main markets for EU exports.

**Exports by product type (2022, % in volume)**



**Main destinations (2022, tonnes)**

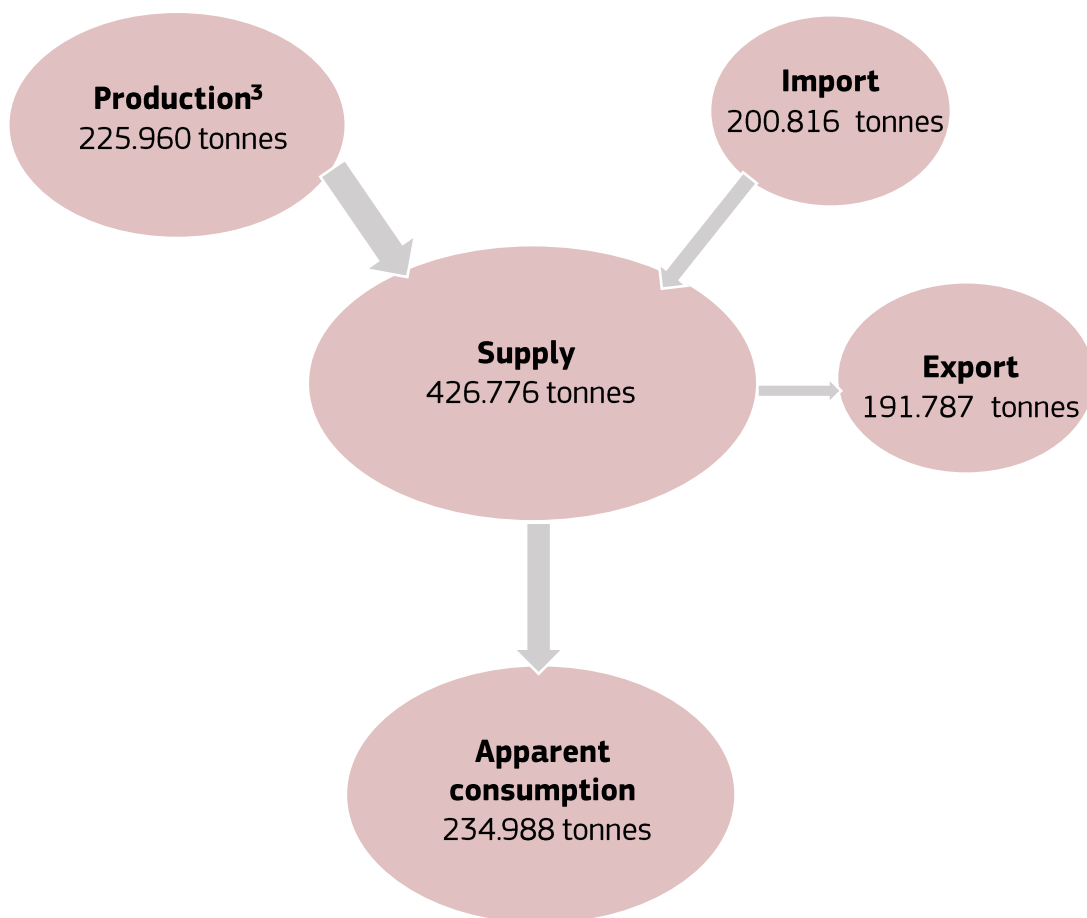


Source: EUMOFA



## Supply balance

### EU supply balance (2021<sup>1</sup>) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent<sup>2</sup> – Mackerel:



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

<sup>1</sup> Supply balance is provided for the year 2021 (trade data for 2021 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slides 4 and 5 concern the year 2022.

<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, Ireland, Denmark, and Spain.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
<b>Denmark, fresh</b>	0,92	0,86	1,14	0,92	1,30	1,48	1,29	1,62	1,44	0,78	EUMOFA
<b>Ireland, fresh</b>	n.a.	n.a.	0,95	0,84	1,13	1,39	1,27	1,19	1,52	1,51	EUMOFA
<b>Spain, fresh</b>	n.a.	0,64	0,72	0,61	0,76	1,04	0,92	1,10	1,39	1,06	EUMOFA
<b>Spain, frozen</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0,88	1,09	0,92	1,06	1,26	1,37	EUMOFA

(\*) From January to November 2023

## Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are reported for France.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
<b>France "maquereau de chalu"</b>	2,87	2,84	3,12	3,41	3,37	3,61	3,49	3,77	4,21	4,42	Rungis (RNM)
<b>France "maquereau de ligne"</b>	4,17	4,77	5,32	4,88	4,46	5,70	4,44	4,85	5,18	5,88	Rungis (RNM)

(\*) From January to November 2023

## Retail/consumption

Retail prices are reported for Poland and France.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
<b>Poland</b>	3,87	4,02	4,20	6,34	7,25	7,61	7,14	6,91	7,97	9,02	EUMOFA
<b>France</b>	10,18	10,44	11,20	11,23	11,38	11,48	8,75	8,24	9,90	10,19	EUMOFA

(\*) From January to November 2023

## Atlantic mackerel



## PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

### Import (frozen whole)

EU imports from third countries concern mainly frozen mackerel. The Netherlands was the largest EU importer in 2022.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
<b>Netherlands</b>	1,10	1,13	1,24	1,26	1,40	1,69	1,34	1,26	1,45	1,88	EUMOFA

(\* ) From January to August 2023

### Export (frozen whole)

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
<b>Netherlands</b>	1,20	1,18	1,17	1,28	1,29	1,54	1,53	1,47	1,73	1,68	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 in 2021: **0,53 kg** live weight equivalent, giving mackerel a twelfth-place ranking among the most consumed fish species in the EU (source: [Supply balance](#), EUMOFA). Mackerel experienced a 12% 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