



ATLANTIC HERRING (*CLUPEA HARENGUS*)



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BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

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

The Atlantic herring belongs to the family of *Clupeidae*.

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

The Atlantic herring is one of the most abundant fish species in the world. It lives in the North-East Atlantic (from Norwegian waters in the North to the Bay of Biscay in the South) and in the North-West Atlantic (from Greenland to South Carolina in the USA).

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

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

Minimum conservation sizes are set at 18 cm of total length in Skagerrak and Kattegat and 20 cm in other fishing areas.

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

The main fishing gears used are gillnets and similar nets, pots and traps, seines and trawls.

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

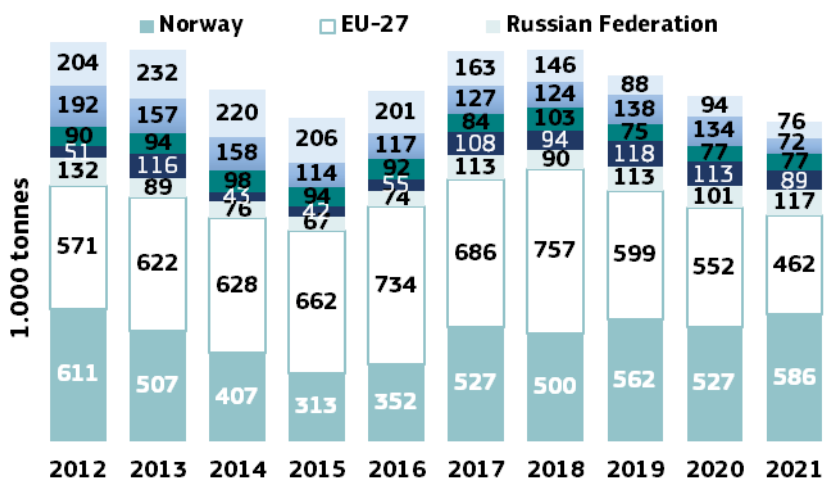
Atlantic herring



CATCHES

Evolution of world catches

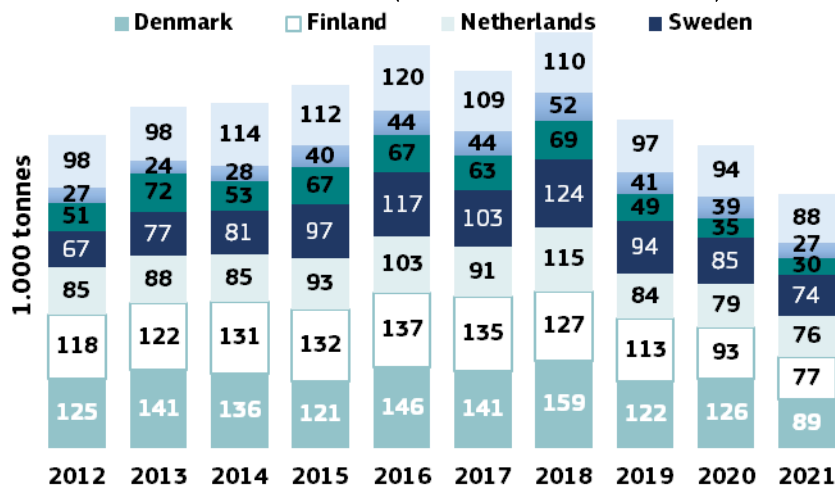
- Atlantic herring catches reached almost 1,5 million tonnes in 2021, i.e. **2%** of the global catches. The majority of this is caught by Norway (40% of global catches in 2021) as well as the EU (31%) (EU fleet operating mainly in the North Atlantic) and Russia, Faroe Islands, and the United Kingdom. During the last decade (2012-2021), Atlantic herring catches have decreased by 20% at global level in relation to the decrease of the Norwegian spring spawning quota (mainly between 2011 and 2016).



Source: FAO

Evolution of EU catches

- In 2021, the EU catches of Atlantic herring reached circa 461.781 tonnes. Similarly to the global trend, the EU catches have decreased (19% during the last decades). The decrease was mostly driven by decreased Danish catches but also by the notable decreases of the Finnish, Swedish and Dutch catches. The latter is home of the largest EU freezer trawler company involved in pelagic fishing. In 2021, 74% of the EU landings was used for human consumption, while the rest was used for industrial use (i.e. fishmeal and fish oil).



Source: FAO



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

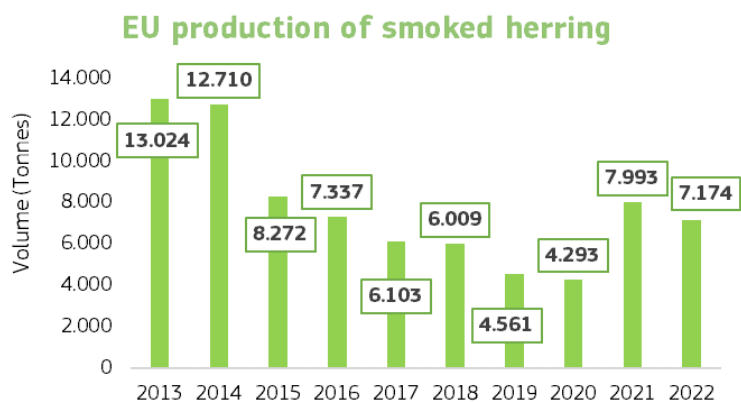
- No aquaculture production of Atlantic herring has been developed, as it would not be competitive (low sale prices).

PROCESSING

- A significant processing activity for the Atlantic herring exists in the EU.
- 2 [PRODCOM](#) codes refer to herring:
 - 10 20 24 55: smoked herrings,
 - 10 20 25 20: preserved or prepared herrings.

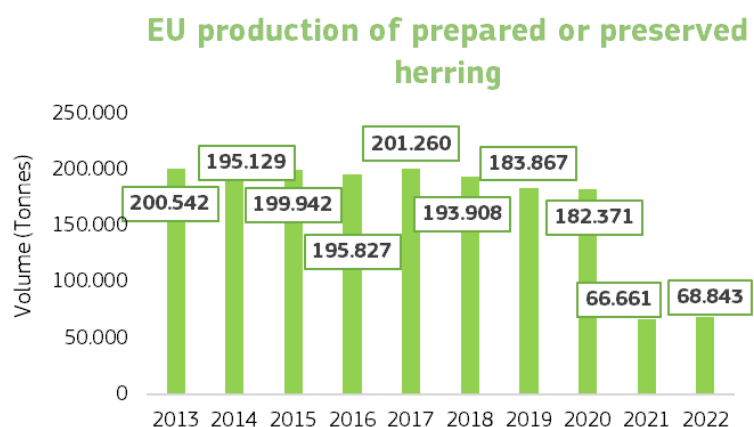
Smoked herring

The EU-27 production of smoked herring was estimated to 7.174 tonnes in 2022. EU production of smoked herring dropped substantially since 2013 and significantly increased between 2020 and 2022. This increase is related to the increase of the French production by 307% since 2018 (after a significant decrease since 2015). In 2022, France was the main producer in the EU, contributing to 79% of the EU production of smoked herrings.



Prepared/preserved herring

The EU production of prepared/preserved herring was estimated to 68.843 tonnes. The EU production of prepared/preserved herring decreased by 66% since 2013. Denmark was the main EU producer with a production over 45.570 tonnes (66% of EU production) in 2022, followed by Lithuania (14%) and Latvia (9%).





TRADE

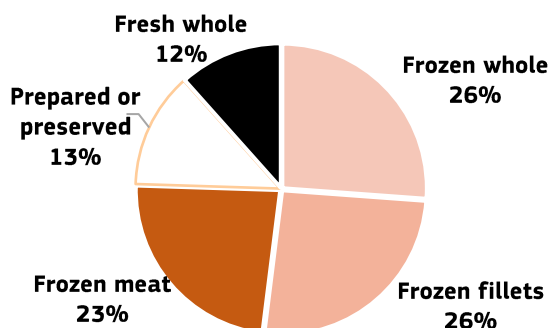
- [Combined nomenclature](#)

EU trade of herring products (tonnes – 2022)

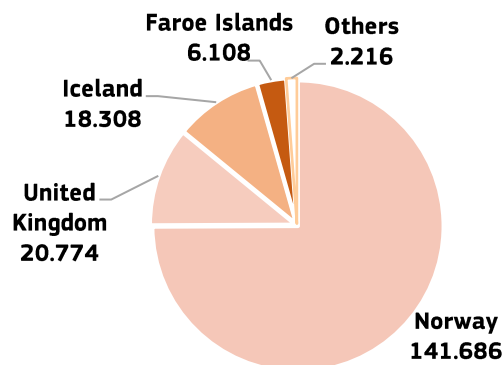
CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 02 41 00	Herrings, fresh	21.877	13.083
03 04 59 50	Flaps of herrings, fresh	49.336	170.006
03 04 86 00	Filletts of herrings, frozen	109	17
03 04 99 23	Meat of herrings, frozen	48.595	192
03 03 51 00	Herrings, frozen	44.346	777
03 05 42 00	Herrings, smoked	292	89
03 05 54 30	Dried herrings, even salted but not smoked	40	6
03 05 61 00	Herrings, salted or in brine	106	927
16 04 12 10	Filletts of herrings, coated, frozen	77	148
16 04 12 91	Herrings, prepared or preserved, in airtight containers	1.829	8.195
16 04 12 99	Herrings, prepared or preserved, other	22.483	1.744
Total		189.092	195.185

- Main extra-EU imports** reached 189.092 tonnes in 2022, of which 75% were frozen. EU imports from Norway reached almost 141.700 tonnes in 2022, representing 75% of total EU imports of herring in volume terms. The imports' volume of herring from the second largest supplier, the United Kingdom, totaled circa 21.000 tonnes in 2022. The top-four import markets in 2022 were Poland, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Denmark, representing 80% of total imports volume.

Imports by product type (2022, % in volume)



Main EU suppliers (2022, tonnes)



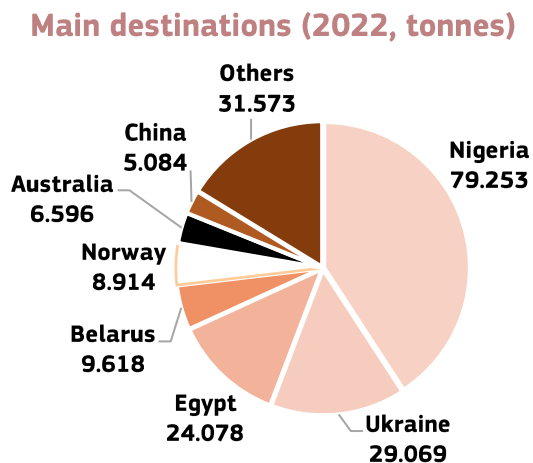
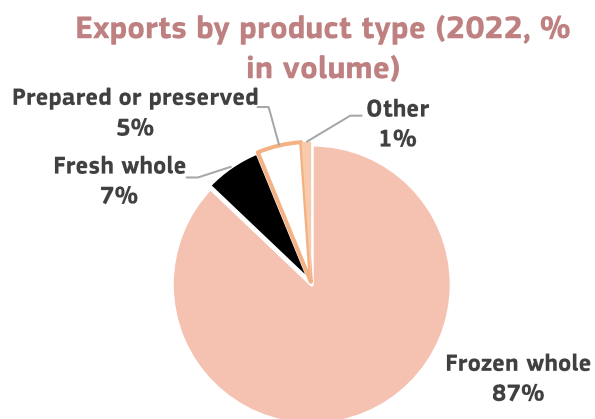
Atlantic herring



TRADE

- Extra-EU exports:**

Herring is one of the most exported fish by EU Member States. In 2022, volumes totaled 195.185 tonnes. Almost 90% of herrings were exported frozen and 63% of the EU-exports originated from the Netherlands. In 2022, Nigeria, Ukraine and Egypt were the main markets for EU exports, accounting for 68% of total volume.

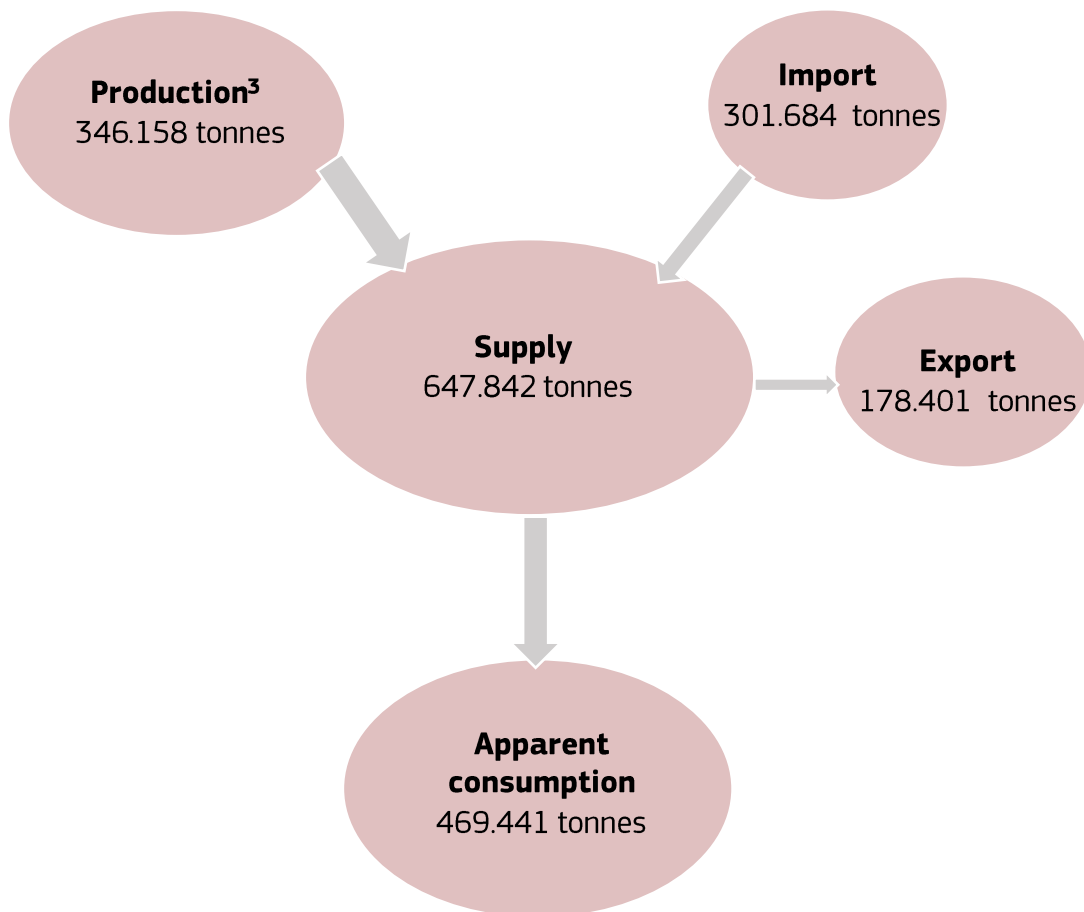


Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT



Supply balance

EU supply balance (2021¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² – Herring:
Production data concern the Atlantic herring while trade data include other species of herring.



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ 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.

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

³ Production figure used in this supply chain is different from the production figure provided in the slide on catches (i.e. slide 2) as only production for human consumption has been considered.

Atlantic herring



PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale (fresh)

First-sale prices are provided for one of the main EU producers (Denmark).

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Denmark	0,42	0,47	0,56	0,42	0,38	0,43	0,50	0,56	0,70	0,78	EUMOFA

(*) From January to November 2023

Wholesale (fresh)

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

Most frequent price	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Spain	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	Mercamadrid

(*) From January to November 2023

Import (frozen fillets)

EU imports from third countries concern mainly frozen herring, in fillets.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Poland	1,68	1,75	2,02	1,70	1,37	1,37	1,44	1,66	1,75	1,70	EUMOFA
Netherlands	1,87	1,96	2,01	1,85	1,46	1,43	1,50	1,64	1,72	1,77	EUMOFA
Sweden	1,72	1,76	2,08	1,68	1,48	1,41	1,43	1,62	1,72	1,71	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2023

Export (frozen whole)

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
Netherlands	0,63	0,81	0,77	0,70	0,71	0,78	0,84	0,89	1,04	1,00	EUMOFA

(*) From January to August 2023

Atlantic herring



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](#))
- There are two names protected under **Protected Geographical Indication** (PGI) and **Traditional Specialities Guaranteed** (TSG) for processed herring:
 - PGI “**Glückstädter Matjes**” in Germany;
 - TSG “**Hollandse maatjesharing / Hollandse Nieuwe / Holländischer Matjes**” in the Netherlands.

CONSUMPTION

- 8th most consumed species in the EU (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2023 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption per capita in 2019: **1,0 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2023 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (Atlantic herring, nutrition values per serving 100g) ([Read more](#))

Nutrition values	Herring
Energy (kcal)	158
Total fat (g)	9,04
Saturates (g)	2,04
Carbohydrate (g)	0
Sugars (g)	0
Protein (g)	17,96
Salt (mg)	225