



## EUROPEAN HAKE (*MERLUCCIOUS MERLUCCIOUS*)



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### 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

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

Minimum conservation reference 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.

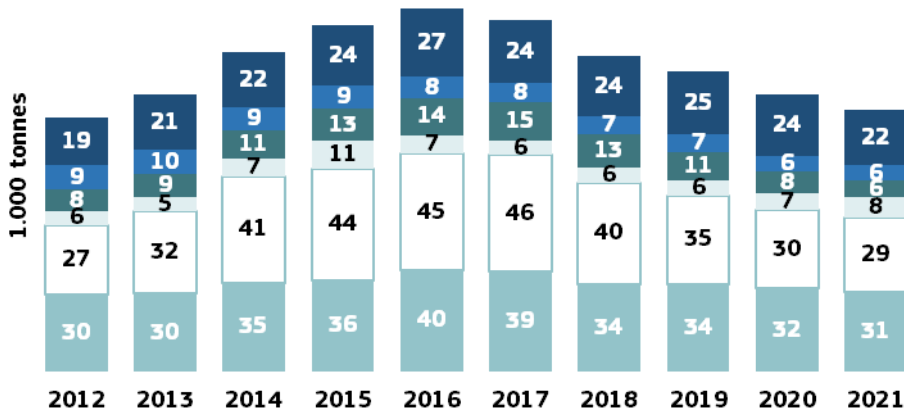


# CATCHES

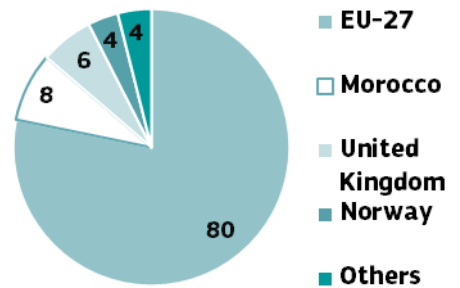
- Global catches of European hake reached over 102.000 tonnes, i.e. **0,1%** of the total global catches in 2021.
- During the last decade (2012 to 2021), catches have increased to reach peak in 2016 (142.000 tonnes) before decreasing by 28% between 2016 and 2021. In 2021, Spain and France were the main producers. Together, they produced 58% of the global catches of hake.

## Evolution of world catches

■ Others ■ Italy ■ United Kingdom ■ Morocco ■ France ■ Spain



Catches (2021, 1.000 tonnes)

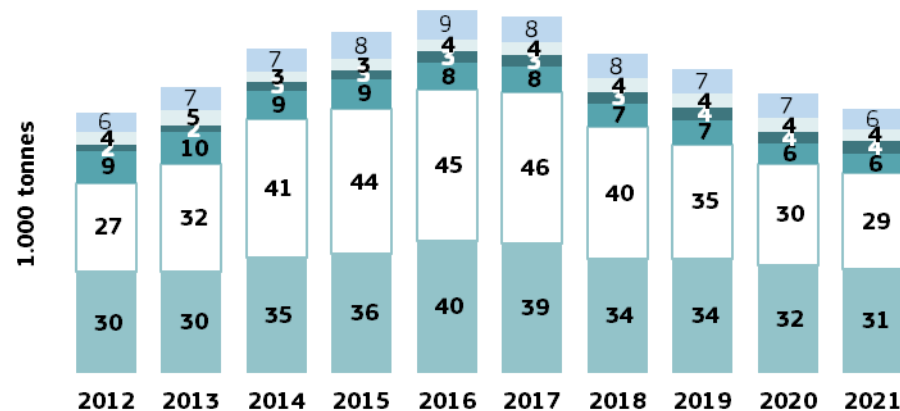


Source: FAO

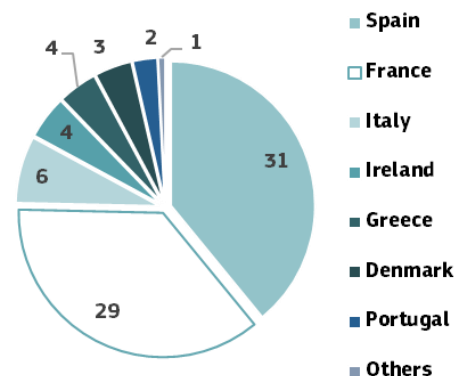
## Evolution of EU catches

- In 2021, the EU provided 78% of the global European hake catches.

■ Spain ■ France ■ Italy ■ Ireland ■ Greece ■ Others



Catches (2021, 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, 2020).



## TRADE

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

### EU trade of European hake products (tonnes - 2022)

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

CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 02 54 11	Fresh or chilled Cape hake " <i>Merluccius capensis</i> " and deepwater hake " <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i> "	3.040	11
03 02 54 15	Fresh or chilled southern hake " <i>Merluccius australis</i> "	2.649	-
03 02 54 19	Fresh or chilled hake " <i>Merluccius spp.</i> " (excl. cape hake, deepwater hake and southern hake)	6.382	804
03 02 54 90	Fresh or chilled hake " <i>Urophycis spp.</i> "	10	3
03 03 66 11	Frozen Cape hake " <i>Merluccius capensis</i> " and deepwater hake " <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i> "	14.870	924
03 03 66 12	Frozen Argentine hake " <i>Merluccius hubbsi</i> "	7.887	28.113
03 03 66 13	Frozen southern hake " <i>Merluccius australis</i> "	5.939	68
03 03 66 19	Frozen hake " <i>Merluccius spp.</i> " (excl. cape hake, deepwater hake, Argentine hake and southern hake)	6.554	5.757
03 03 66 90	Frozen hake " <i>Urophycis spp.</i> "	-	343
03 04 74 11	Frozen fillets of Cape hake " <i>Merluccius capensis</i> " and deepwater hake " <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i> "	61.980	502
03 04 74 15	Frozen fillets of Argentine hake " <i>Merluccius hubbsi</i> "	24.365	403
03 04 74 19	Frozen fillets of hake " <i>Merluccius spp.</i> " (excl. cape hake, deepwater hake and Argentine hake)	28.062	98
03 04 74 90	Frozen fillets of hake " <i>Urophycis spp.</i> "	12	11
03 04 95 50	Frozen meat, whether or not minced, of hake " <i>Merluccius spp.</i> " (excl. fillets and surimi)	18.454	90
16 04 19 94	prepared or preserved hake " <i>Merluccius spp.</i> , <i>Urophycis spp.</i> ", whole or in pieces	376	348
<b>Total</b>		<b>180.580</b>	<b>37.476</b>

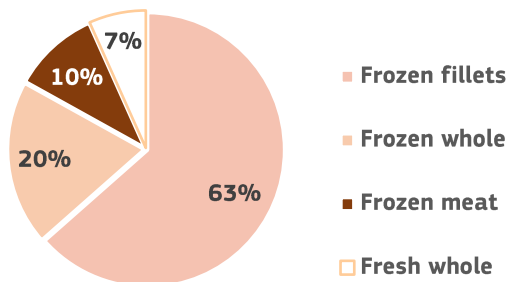
Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT



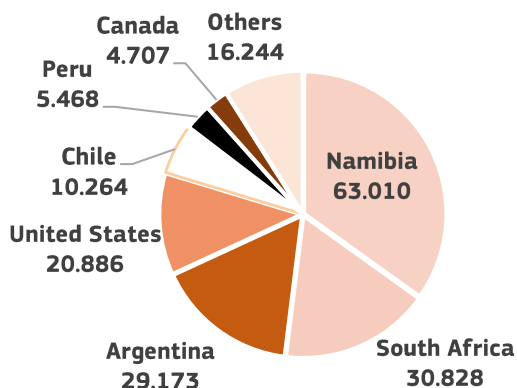
# TRADE

**Extra-EU imports** reached circa 180.600 tonnes in 2022. These concerned mainly frozen hake in fillets (63% of extra-EU imports), frozen whole hake (20%) and to lesser extent frozen meat (10%) and Fresh whole (7%). Spain was responsible of more than half of the extra-EU imports of hake in 2022 (51% of the EU imports). Other importers included Italy (12%) and France (7%). Main EU suppliers were Namibia, South Africa and Argentina. EU trade with South Africa and Namibia is facilitated by the Trade, Development and Co-operation agreement between the EU and Southern African Development Community.

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



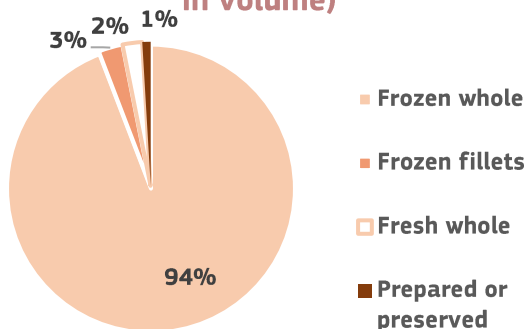
**Main EU suppliers (2022, tonnes)**



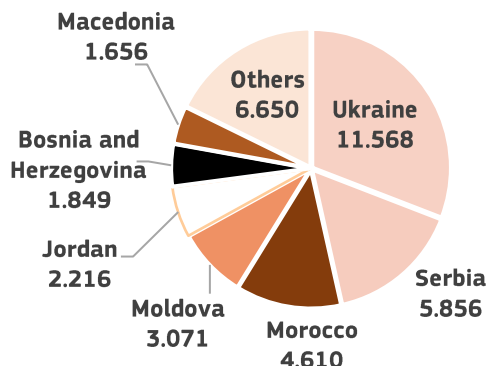
## Extra-EU exports

Extra-EU exports were around 37.476 tonnes in 2022. EU-exports were dominated by frozen whole hake (94% of extra-EU exports). Ukraine was the major destination and Spain was by far the main EU exporter. In 2022, Spain was responsible of 88% of extra-EU exports of hake.

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



**Main destinations (2022, tonnes)**

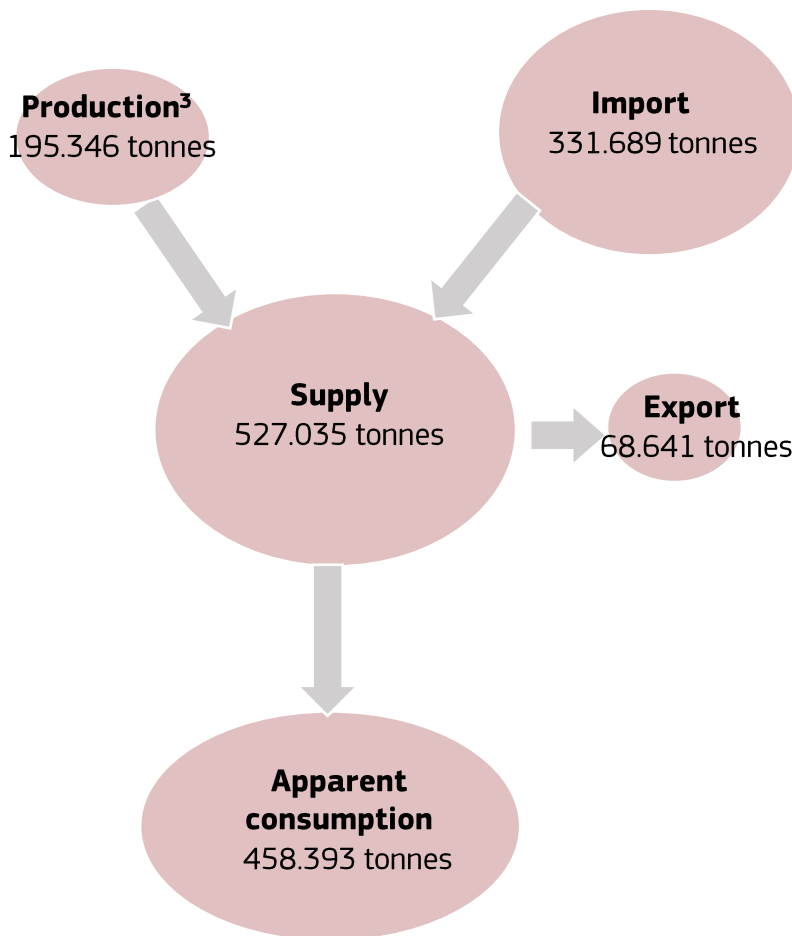




## Supply balance

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

Production data cover all hake species targeted by the EU fleet to be in line with trade data that cover other hake species. The European hake represents 49% of the EU catches of hake. This supply balance concerns Hake.



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 considered in this supply balance sheet is different from the production figure for the EU provided in the slide 2 on catches as this supply balance concerns all hake species targeted by the EU fleet, not only European hake.



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

### First-sale (fresh)

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
<b>Spain</b>	n.a.	3,99	3,91	4,18	4,23	4,06	3,93	4,01	4,34	4,03	EUMOFA
<b>France</b>	2,49	2,84	2,69	2,75	2,95	3,17	3,2	3,36	3,55	3,63	EUMOFA

(\* ) From January to November 2023

### Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are provided for the main wholesale markets in France (Rungis, Paris) and Spain (Mercamadrid, Madrid).

Average price (FR) / Most frequent price (ES)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
<b>France , whole 2-3 kg, Origin France</b>	4,69	4,22	5,06	4,57	6,08	6,81	6,21	7,36	7,79	8,05	Rungis
<b>Spain</b>	7,55	7,88	7,58	7,60	8,01	9,94	10,20	11,82	12,57	16,51	Mercamadrid

(\* ) From January to November 2023

### Retail/consumption

Retail prices are provided for France, one of the major EU consumers of hake.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Source
<b>France, whole fresh</b>	n.a.	n.a.	10,30	10,60	10,30	10,70	11,20	12,10	n.a.	FranceAgriMer
<b>Spain - fresh</b>	7,02	7,18	7,26	7,54	7,77	7,90	8,45	9,25	9,71	MAPA
<b>Spain - frozen</b>	6,54	6,74	6,84	7,04	7,07	7,22	7,26	7,41	7,78	MAPA



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

### Import (frozen fillets)

Extra-EU imports concern mainly frozen fillets. In 2022, main importers were Spain, Italy and France.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
<b>Spain</b>	3,22	3,46	3,5	3,63	3,74	3,79	3,71	3,59	4,07	4,39	EUMOFA
<b>Italy</b>	3,65	4,04	4,05	4,14	3,98	4,18	4,32	4,3	4,67	5,09	EUMOFA
<b>France</b>	3,7	3,8	3,95	4,25	4,27	4,17	4,42	4,55	4,93	5,32	EUMOFA

(\*) From January to August 2023

### Export (frozen whole)

Extra-EU exports concern mainly frozen whole hake and Spain is by far the main EU exporter of hake to third countries.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Source
<b>Spain</b>	1,61	1,59	1,36	1,44	1,48	1,38	1,40	1,52	1,82	1,82	EUMOFA

(\*) From January to August 2023





## MARKETING

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

## CONSUMPTION

- Hake is the 7<sup>th</sup> most consumed fish in the EU (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2023 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption per capita in 2021: **1,02 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2023 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutrition values (European hake, Atlantic, cut from whole fish, values per 100 g – source : [USDA](#))

Nutritional value	Hake
Energie (kcal)	78
Energie (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