



Last update: 03/04/20

## BELGIUM IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2017, sources: Eurostat and FAO

Belgium is a minor EU producer of fishery and aquaculture products.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-28	Belgium	% world	% EU-28
Catches	93.204	5.253	24,4	0,0262%	0,46%
Aquaculture	111.966	1.372	0,1	0,0001%	0,01%
<b>Total</b>	<b>205.170</b>	<b>6.625</b>	<b>24,5</b>	<b>0,0119%</b>	<b>0,37%</b>

## FISHING FLEET

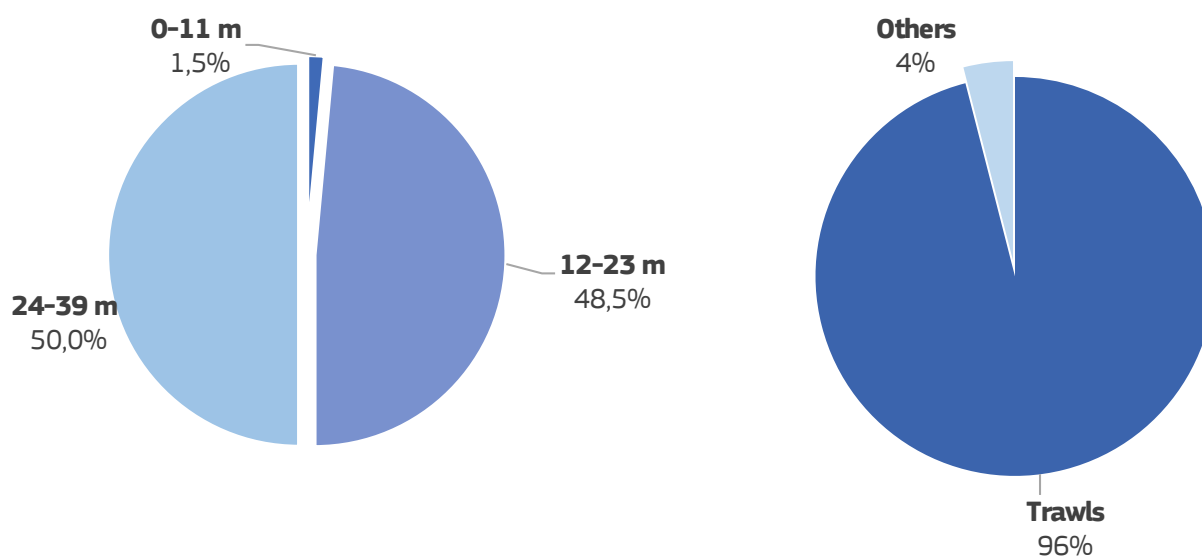
Fleet: 2018, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat

Employment: 2017, source: JRC

Vessels (2018)	Capacity (2018)	Power (2018)	
Number: 68	Gross Tonnage: 12.898	Kilowatt: 42.670	
TOTAL FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE), 2017: 214			
0-11 m	12-23 m	24-39 m	>40 m
Jobs (FTE): 0%	Jobs (FTE): 23%	Jobs (FTE): 77%	Jobs (FTE): 0%

### The Belgian fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)







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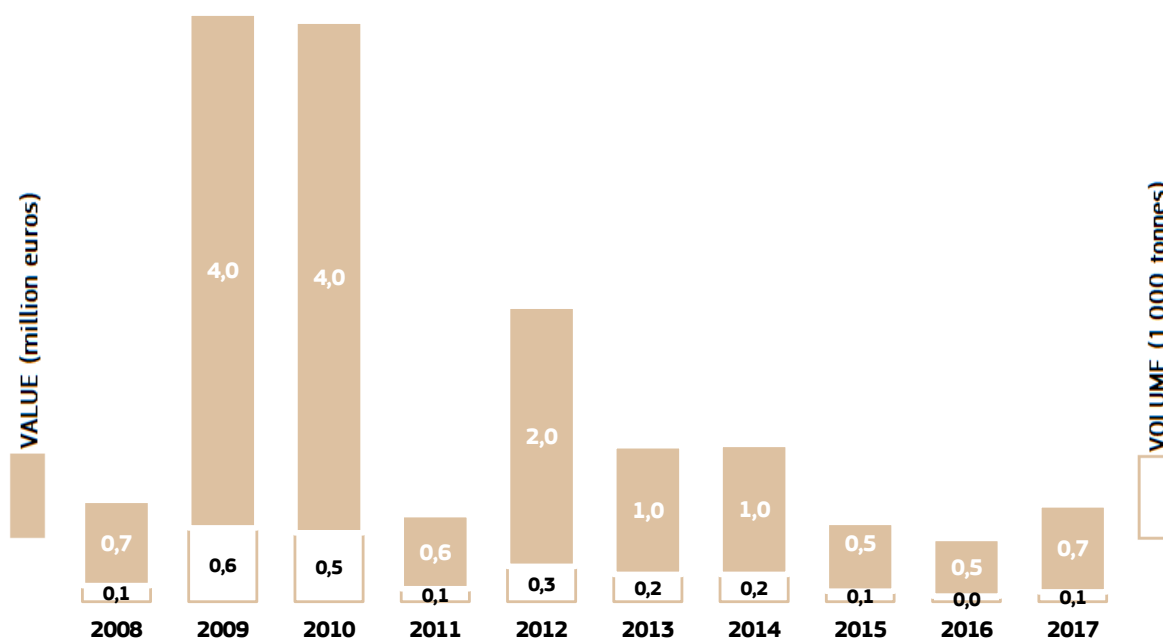
## AQUACULTURE

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and FAO data

Aquaculture consists in the farming of aquatic (freshwater or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Aquaculture data are reported in live weight equivalent and value.

Only freshwater production exists in Belgium, mainly consisting in trout farming.

### Total production



## PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

2019, source: DG MARE, [link](#)

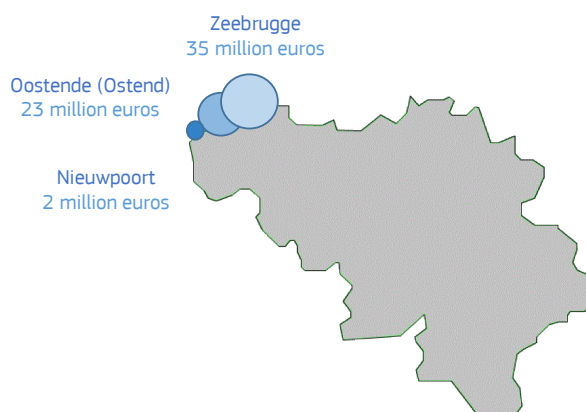
In Belgium, **1 producer organisation (PO)** is formally recognized, operating in the fishery sector. Its role is to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and of the Common organisation of the markets (CMO) through the collective management of their members' activities.



## FIRST SALES

2019, source: EUMOFA

First sales concern the fish that is sold or registered at an auction center or to registered buyers or to producer organizations (PO). First sales may differ from landings since the former do not cover fish that is landed by vessels owned by processing companies or direct sales to processors. In Belgium, there are three auctions: Oostende (Ostend), Zeebrugge and Nieuwpoort.



Auctions	Volume (tonnes)	Value (million euros)	Top-3 main commercial species (in value)
Zeebrugge	7.955	35	Common sole, European plaice, monk
Oostende (Ostend)	5.291	23	Common sole, European plaice, turbot
Nieuwpoort	470	2	Common sole, shrimp <i>Crangon</i> spp., scallop

## WHOLESALE Source: Vlaamse Visveiling

Wholesale is an intermediary stage in the distribution channel that buys in bulk and sells to resellers (e.g. retailers) rather than to consumers.

There are no wholesale markets in Belgium. The three Belgian auctions (Oostende, Zeebrugge and Nieuwpoort) play an important role in the supply chain of fishery and aquaculture products. There are two auction management companies in Belgium:

- Vlaamse Visveiling (the most important): management company of the two auctions of Oostende and Zeebrugge. It gathers 170 buyers: wholesalers, supermarkets, markets and speciality stores.
- Nieuwpoortse Visveiling: management company of the Nieuwpoort auction.

## PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 1.263 persons were employed in the Belgian fish processing industry in 2017. The sector recorded a value added of 104,2 million euros, covering 2% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2018, the main products sold were “Fresh or chilled fish fillets and other fish meat without bones” and “Prepared or preserved crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates (excl. chilled, frozen, dried, salted or in brine, crustaceans, in shell, cooked by steaming or boiling), excl. prepared meals and dishes” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

**64 companies**

**Sales: 689 million euros**

(2017, source: Eurostat - SBS)

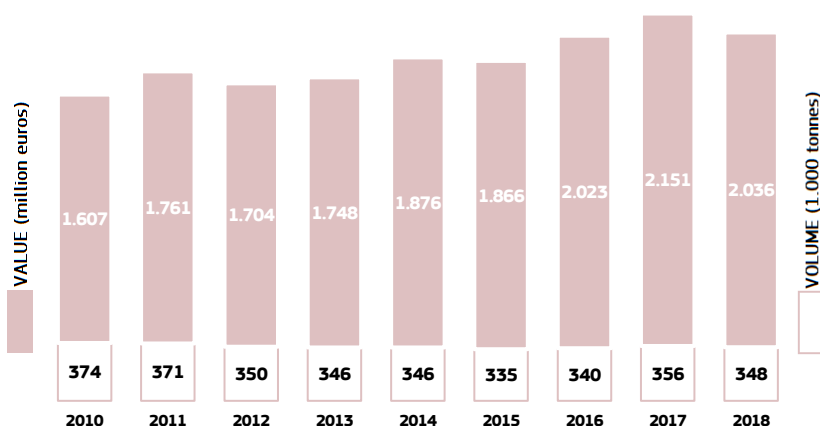


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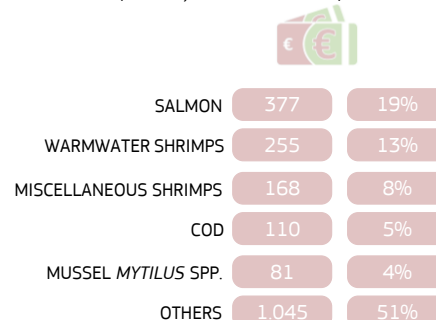
## IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data

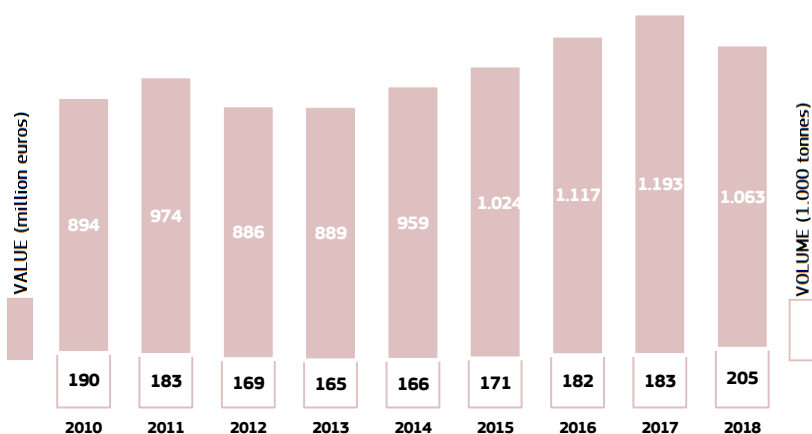
### IMPORT



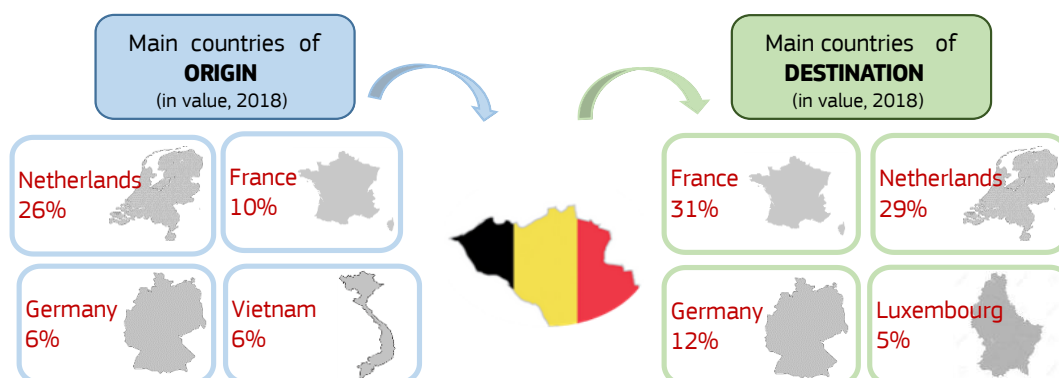
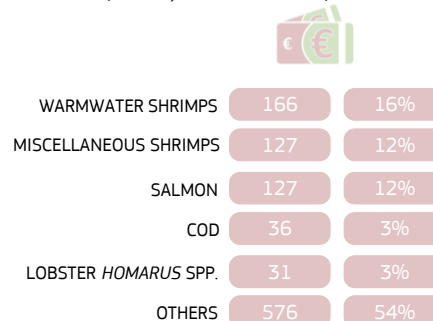
#### Main commercial species imported and % of total imports (2018, million euros)



### EXPORT



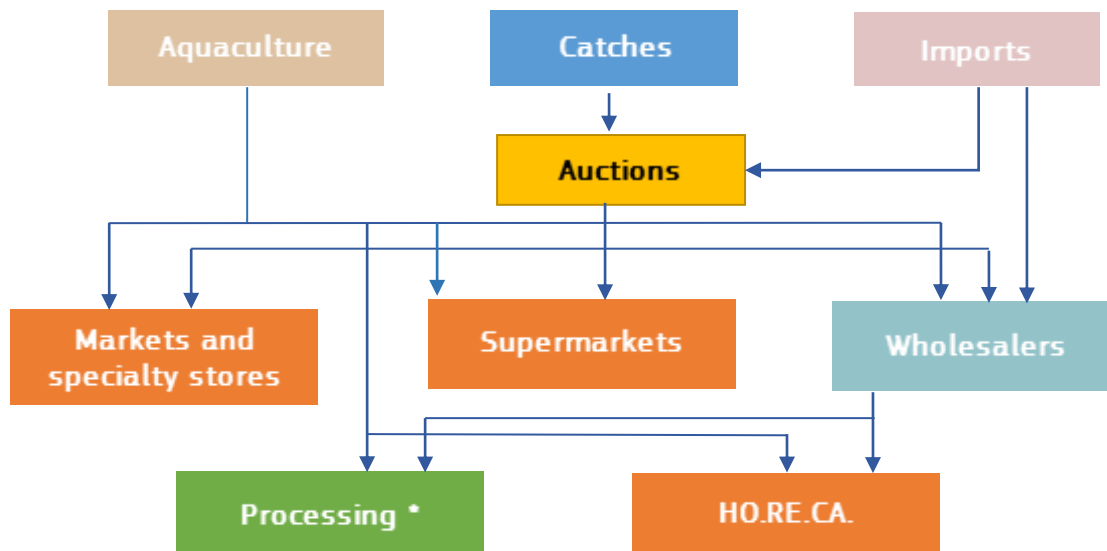
#### Main commercial species exported and % of total exports (2018, million euros)





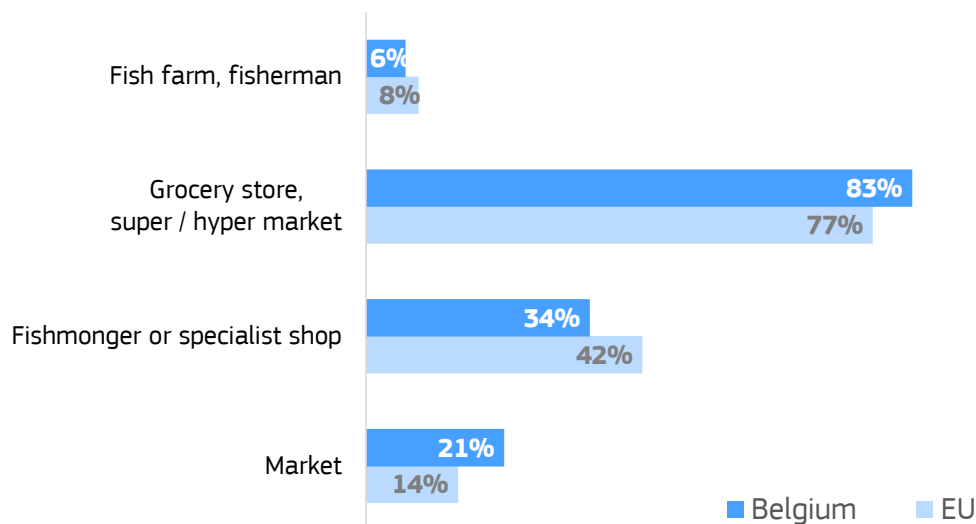
## DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in Belgium (based on the operational programme for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - EMFF - of Belgium):



\* Processing depends heavily on imports. The majority of processed products are exported.

Consumer preferences on purchasing channels (source: Eurobarometer, 2018):





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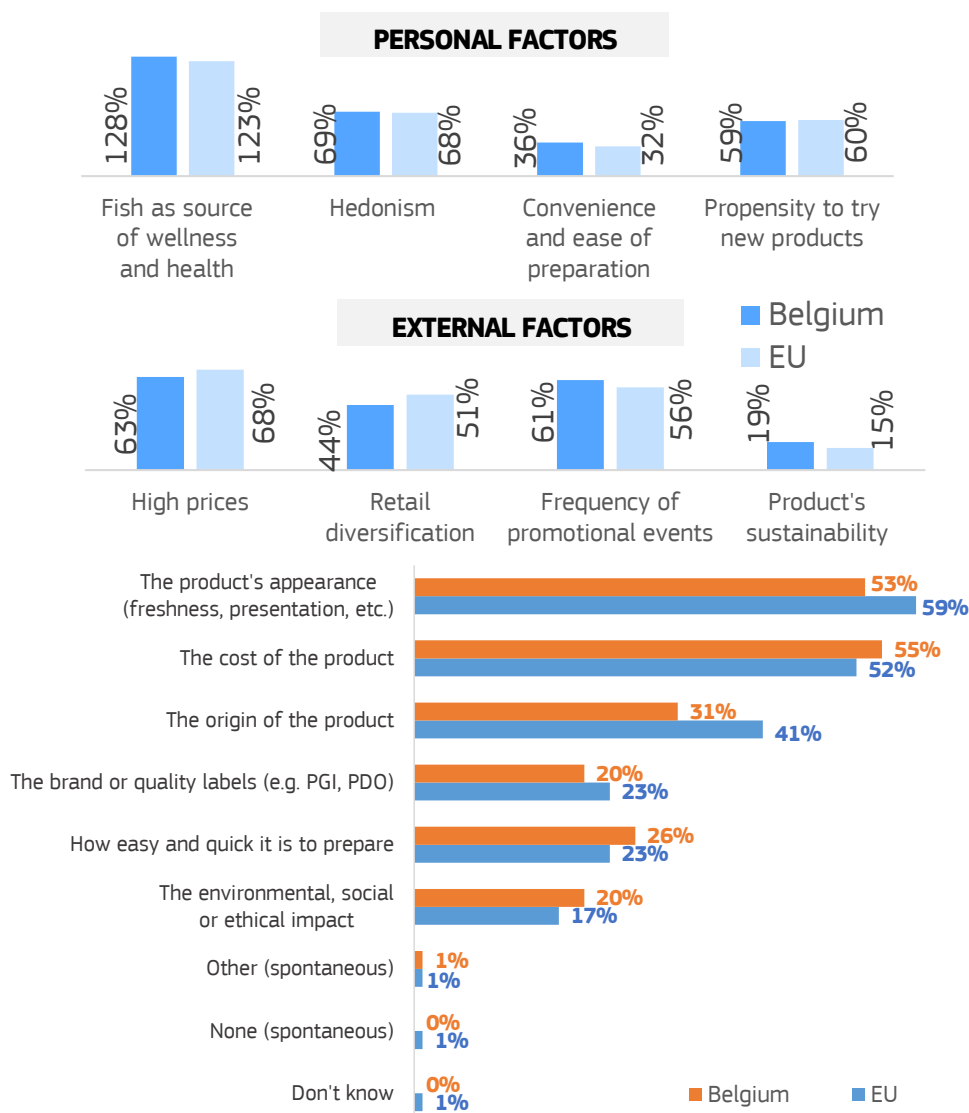
## CONSUMPTION

In 2017, apparent consumption was estimated at 23,8 kg per capita, a 10,7% increase compared with 2016. The most consumed species were salmon, cod, mussel and skipjack tuna (source: EUMOFA).

Regular consumers, namely those who eat fishery and aquaculture products at least once a month, mainly belong to the age groups 40-54 and over 55. Young people (15-24) are less inclined to consume fish in Belgium, as well as at EU level. However, in this category, regular consumers cover 69% of the total, which is slightly higher than at EU level (67%). Belgians consume especially fresh and frozen products; loose fish is more rarely consumed (54%) than at EU level (68%) (source: EUMOFA, "EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products", 2017).

**23,8 kg**  
**per capita**  
(2017, source: EUMOFA)

**Purchasing factors** (sources: up chart: EUMOFA, 2017; down chart: Eurobarometer, 2018)





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## THE COUNTRY IN EUMOFA



### LANDINGS

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery.

They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

### AQUACULTURE

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – Fishery and integrated with FAO data.

They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

### FIRST SALES

Volumes and values are collected from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Government of Flanders on a weekly and monthly basis.

Weekly data are monitored for a selection of 18 main commercial species and 3 auctions (click [here](#) for the full list).

Monthly data cover all species sold in the three auctions.

Both weekly and monthly data are accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility. As for monthly first sales, data at disaggregated level are also accessible, through a dedicated advanced table and the bulk download facility.

### WHOLESALE

No data available

### IMPORT - EXPORT

Volumes and values are collected from Eurostat – COMEXT. Data concern trade flows of all fisheries and aquaculture products as recorded by national customs.

They are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through simple and advanced tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

### PROCESSING

Data are collected from Eurostat – PRODCOM. They concern ex-farm quantities and values of fisheries and aquaculture products sold in the country after being transformed from raw material into final products.

They are available on a yearly basis and accessible through simple tables, as well as through the bulk download facility.

### CONSUMPTION

No data available