

EEA Foreign Trade in Fishery Products

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Introduction

The EEA as a whole has a negative balance of trade in fishery products, both in terms of the volume and value of the trade (see Fig.1). In 1997 this amounted to 3 650 million EUR and 610 thousand tonnes. Had it not been for the strongly positive balances for Iceland and Norway the situation would have been much worse. Indeed, of the EU Member States, only Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands had a positive balance in the value of the trade in 1997. Germany, Spain, France and Italy all had deficits exceeding 1 000 million EUR.

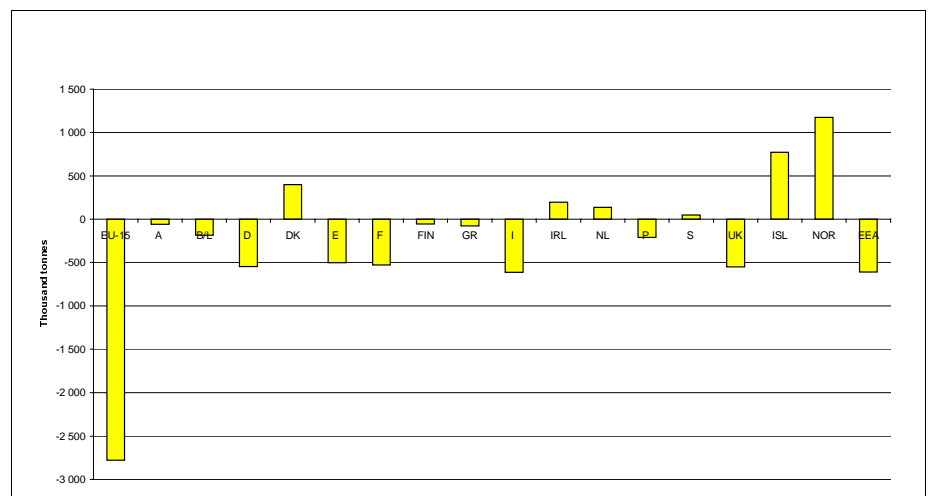
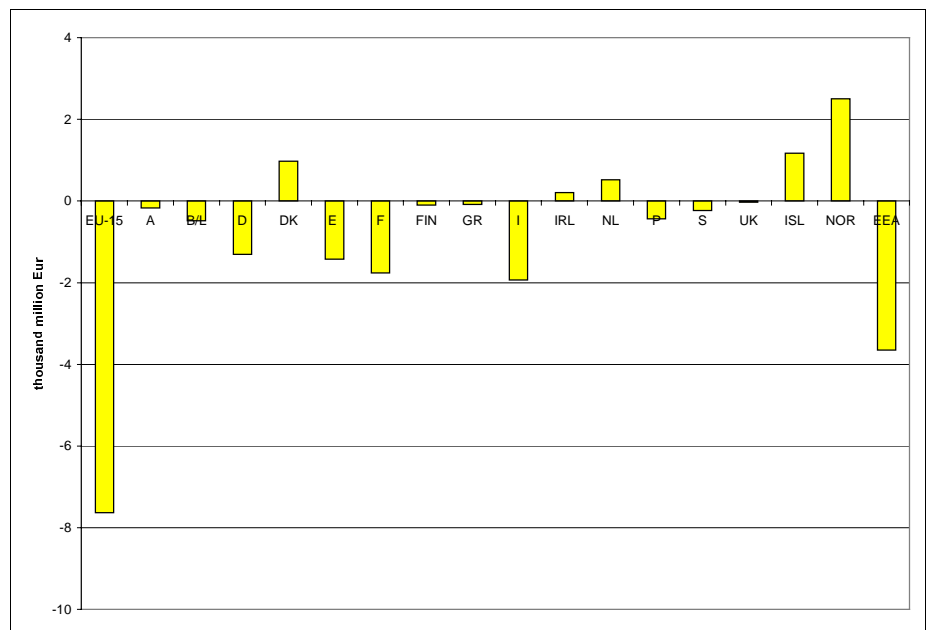


Fig. 1: Balance of trade in fishery products in 1997

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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FISHERIES

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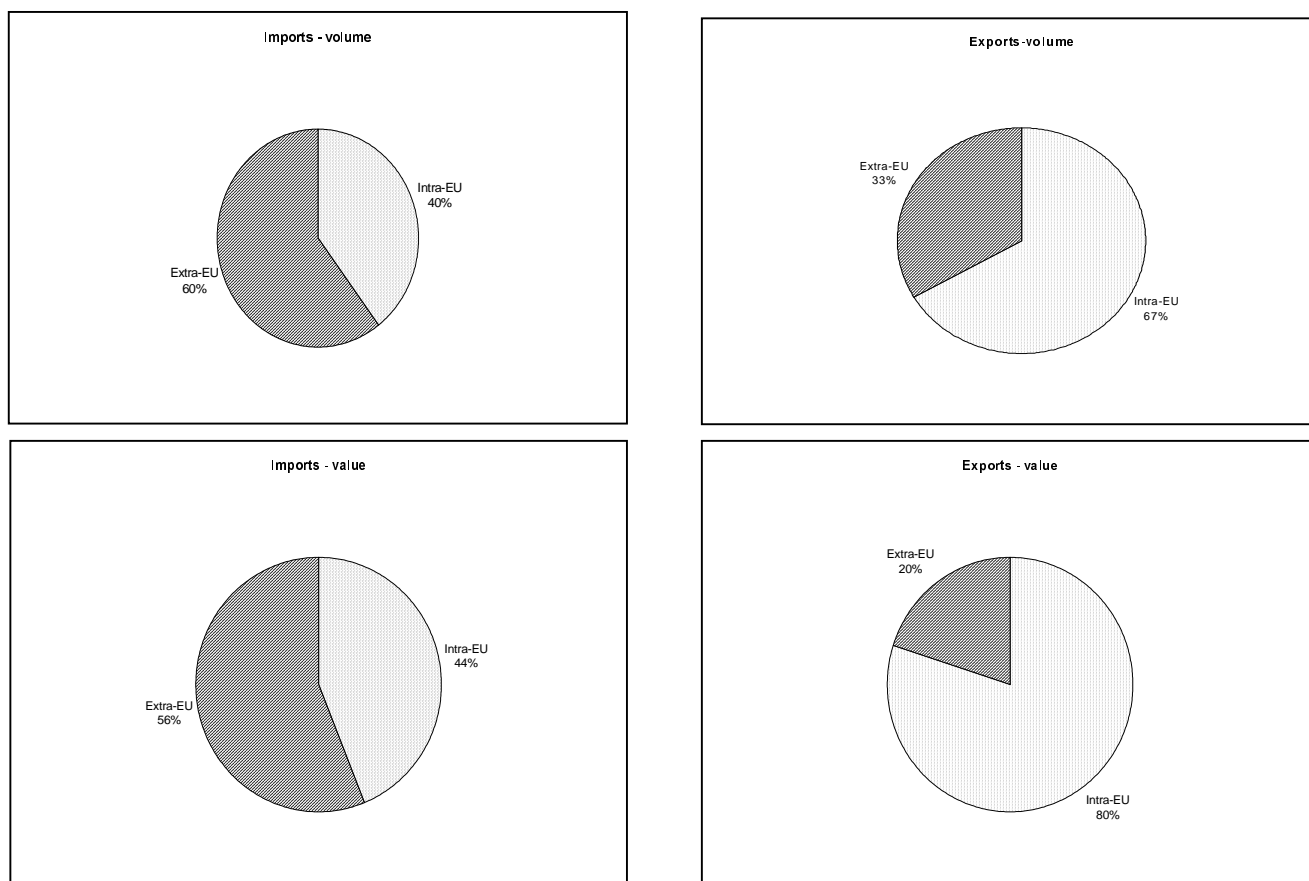


Fig. 2: Extra- and intra-EU trade in fishery products in 1997.

Extra- and Intra-EU trade in fishery products.

67% by volume of the EU Member States' exports are to other EU countries; this accounts for 80% of the trade by value (see Fig. 2). For imports the percentage of extra-EU trade by volume and value are very similar, at 60 and 56% respectively. This disparity between the export and import trade with non-EU countries is explained by the fact that the unit value of all products imported from non-EU countries is much higher than the unit value of products exported to these countries (2.205 thousand EUR/tonne for imports against 1.229 thousand EUR/tonne for exports). This disparity may also be seen when considering a relatively homogenous group of fishery products, fresh, chilled or frozen fish. The unit value of EU imports of this group of products from non-Member States is 2.134 thousand EUR/tonne against a unit value of 1.019 thousand EUR/tonne for exports.

Of the seven groups of fishery products, fresh, chilled and frozen fish is the group which predominates in the EU's exports to non-Member States, contributing 66% by volume and 54% by value to the total trade. While it is still the major group, it is of lesser importance in the EU's imports from non-Member States, contributing 41% by volume and 40% by value to the total.

Of the 4.6 million tonnes of fishery products exported by EU Member States in 1997, 3.0 million tonnes (66%) were destined for other EU Member States. In terms of value, the exports to other Member States accounted for 7 900 million EUR (80%) of the total 9 800 million EUR.

The trade between Member States played a much less significant role in the imports of Member States, contributing only 2.9 million tonnes (39%) of the total 7.2 million tonnes by volume and 7 400 million EUR (43%) of the total 17 000 million EUR.

Major importing countries

EU Member States were responsible for 92% by volume (see Table 1) and 97% by value (see Table 2) of the imports by EEA countries in 1997. (NB. These imports include the trade between themselves.) The major importing countries in terms of the value of the products are France, Spain, Italy and Germany, all with over 2 000 million EUR of products. These same countries also topped the list in terms of the volume of products imported.

Major exporting countries

The EU Member States were much less prominent in the EEA export trade contributing only 70% by value and 64% by volume to the total. The major exporting country was Norway with 3 000 million EUR (21% of the total) by value and 1.8 million tonnes (25%) by volume. The major EU exporting countries were Denmark (2 300 million EUR, 1.1 million tonnes), the Netherlands (1670 million EUR, 771 thousand tonnes) and Spain (1 300 million EUR, 627 thousand tonnes).

Fresh, chilled and frozen fish.

The EEA's exports of fresh, chilled and frozen fish accounted for 52% by value and 59% by volume of the total exports of fishery products. The contribution of these products to the total EEA imports was rather lower at 43% by value and 44% by volume.

77% by value and 59% by volume of the total EU-15 exports of fresh, chilled and frozen fish were to other Member States. For imports this inter-EU trade accounted for 47% by value and 43% by volume of the total.

Norway was by far the largest exporter of fresh, chilled and frozen fish (2 148 million EUR, 1.4 million tonnes) followed by Denmark (1 085 million EUR, 0.4 million tonnes).

The major importers of fresh, chilled and frozen fish were Spain (1 177 million EUR, 560 thousand tonnes), France (1 170 million EUR, 426 thousand tonnes) and Germany (1 119 million EUR, 507 thousand tonnes).

The EEA had a positive balance of trade in fresh fish in term of volume (804 thousand tonnes) but a deficit in terms of value (- 248 million EUR). The biggest deficits among the individual countries were for Germany (-834 million EUR, -361 thousand tonnes, Italy (-690 million EUR, -186 thousand tonnes) and France (-643 million EUR, -161 thousand tonnes). The overall situation was improved largely due to the positive balances of Norway (1929 million EUR, 1.2 million tonnes) and Iceland (534 million EUR, 279 thousand tonnes).

Salted, dried and smoked fish.

11% by value and 5% by volume of the total exports by EEA countries were of salted, dried and smoked fish. The contribution of these products to the total EEA imports was lower at 7% by value and 4% by volume.

89% by value and 90% by volume of the total EU-15 exports of salted, dried or smoked fish were to other Member States. However the internal trade only accounted for 49% by value and 41% by volume of the EU-15 imports of these products.

The main EEA exporting countries were Norway (559 million EUR, 160 thousand tonnes), Iceland (216 million EUR, 72 thousand tonnes) and Denmark (355 million EUR, 70 thousand tonnes).

The imports of this group of products were very much more evenly spread among the EU Member States. Portugal was the leading importer (252 million EUR, 80 thousand tonnes) with seven other Member States having imports with a value of between 90 and 210 million EUR.

This group of products was the only one for which the EEA had a positive balance (221 million EUR, 53 thousand tonnes). This was very much due to the EU-15's deficit of 569 million EUR and 180 thousand tonnes being over-turned by the strong exports of Norway and Iceland.

Fish preparations and conserves.

Fish conserves and preparations accounted for 10% by value and 7% by volume of the total exports of fishery

products. Imports of these products accounted for 13% by value and 10% by volume of the total EEA imports.

Internal trade between Member States was responsible for the major part of the total EU-15 exports of fish preparations and conserves (83% by value, 82% by volume). Large imports from non-EU countries reduced the contribution of intra-EU imports to 42% by value and 39% by volume of the total.

The major exporting countries were Germany (265 million EUR, 112 thousand tonnes), Denmark (227 million EUR, 71 thousand tonnes) and Spain (224 million EUR, 64 thousand tonnes).

The United Kingdom (500 million EUR, 160 thousand tonnes), France (471 million EUR, 144 thousand tonnes) and Germany (321 million EUR, 158 thousand tonnes) were the major importing countries.

The EU had a large deficit in trade in fish preparations and conserves (1 098 million EUR, 409 thousand tonnes) and the small positive balances of Norway and Iceland only managed to reduce the EEA deficit to 919 million EUR and 324 thousand tonnes.

Fresh, chilled, frozen, salted or dried crustaceans and molluscs.

14% by value and 9% by volume of EEA exports were in the form of fresh, chilled, frozen, salted or dried crustaceans and molluscs. The proportion of these products in the total EEA imports was significantly higher, at 24% by value and 15% by volume.

Other Member States were the destination of the major part (84% both by value and volume) of EU-15 exports of these crustacean and molluscan products. Trade with non-EU countries played a much larger role in the imports of these crustacean and molluscan products with the contribution from other EU Member States falling to 38% by value and 43% by volume.

Seven EU Member States had exports between 100 – 350 million EUR with Spain (346 million EUR, 127 thousand tonnes) and the United Kingdom (326 million EUR, 74 thousand tonnes) making the largest contribution to the total.

The major importing countries were Spain (1167 million EUR, 358 thousand tonnes), France (780 million EUR, 176 thousand tonnes) and Italy (746 million EUR, 232 thousand tonnes).

With Norway and Iceland playing an insignificant role in the trade for these crustacean and molluscan products, the EEA's large deficit of 2 204 million EUR and 541 thousand tonnes was largely the result of the EU-15 deficit.

Crustacean and molluscan preparations and conserves.

Crustacean and molluscan preparations and conserves were responsible for 6% by value and 2% by volume of all EEA exports of fishery products. They made a very similar contribution to the total EEA imports of these products.

Intra-EU trade played a major role in the total exports of EU-15 countries, contributing 90% to the total both in terms of the value and the volume of trade. As with many of the other groups of products, the proportion of the imports by EU-15 countries originating from other Member States is much lower (41% by value and 45% by volume) than for exports.

The major EEA exporting countries are the Netherlands (173 million EUR, 31 thousand tonnes), Denmark (171 million EUR, 28 thousand tonnes) and Iceland (152 million EUR, 26 thousand tonnes).

The major importing country was the United Kingdom (249 million EUR, 38 thousand tonnes) followed by France, Germany and Denmark (all around 140 million EUR)

The EEA has a trade deficit of 244 million EUR and 36 thousand tonnes for these products. The EU-15's deficit was over double this (556 million EUR, 92 thousand tonnes) but the overall situation was greatly improved by healthy surpluses by Norway and Iceland.

Fish meal.

Fish meal is responsible for 4% by value and 13% by volume of EEA exports and 4% by value and 16% by volume

of EEA imports of fishery products.

57% both by value and volume of the EU-15 exports of fish meal were destined for other Member States. Trade with third countries played a much more important role in the imports of fish meal by EU-15 countries with only 29% both by value and volume being derived from other Member States.

The major EEA exporting countries were Denmark (176 million EUR, 287 thousand tonnes), Iceland (139 million EUR, 250 thousand tonnes) and Germany (137 million EUR, 255 thousand tonnes.)

The major EEA importing countries were Germany (144 million EUR, 293 thousand tonnes) and the United Kingdom (165 million EUR, 286 thousand tonnes).

The EEA has a trade deficit in fish meal of 188 million EUR or 366 thousand tonnes.

Fish fats and oils

Fish fats and oils only accounted for 1% by value and 5% by volume of EEA exports of fishery products. Their contribution to the EEA imports of fishery products was slightly greater at 2% by value and 7% by volume.

60% by value and 66% by volume of EU-15 countries exports were destined for other Member States. Trade with third countries was more important in the EU-15 imports of fish fats and oils with only 40% by value and 37% by volume being derived from other Member States.

The major EEA exporting countries for fish fats and oils were Iceland (58 million EUR, 132 thousand tonnes) and Denmark (49 million EUR, 104 thousand tonnes) and Norway (40 million EUR, 59 thousand tonnes).

The major EEA importing countries was Norway (91 million EUR, 202 thousand tonnes) with the next two countries, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom importing less than half that.

The EEA has a trade deficit in fish fats and oils of 70 million EUR or 197 thousand tonnes. This was very similar to the EU-15's deficit, Iceland's surplus being balanced by Norway's deficit.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

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The data for EU Member States and the aggregate EU data are extracted from Eurostat's COMEXT data-base. The data for individual EU Member States include the trade with other EU Member States.

The data for Norway and Iceland are obtained from FAO and include the trade with all other countries.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the official foreign trade data may exclude the exports of fish which are landed by fishing vessels directly in a foreign port or which are trans-shipped at sea to a vessel flying another flag. In certain circumstances these quantities may be appreciable.

Acknowledgement:

Eurostat gratefully acknowledges the collaboration of FAO in providing the data for Iceland and Norway for inclusion in this report.

Exports								
	Total	Fish, fresh, chilled, frozen	Fish, salted, dried or smoked.	Fish preparations and conserves	Crustacea & molluscs, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted or dried	Crustacean & molluscan preparations and conserves	Fish meal	Fish fats and oils
EU-15	4 627 377	2 494 496	162 866	452 616	590 252	111 032	648 182	167 973
<i>extra-EU</i>	1 543 261	1 017 239	15 904	77 808	89 886	11 303	274 074	57 047
<i>intra-EU</i>	3 084 116	1 477 257	146 962	374 808	500 366	99 729	374 108	110 926
A	3 900	1 655	20	909	29	31	1 076	180
B/L	99 208	45 605	1 272	6 335	25 466	9 620	9 770	1 140
D	551 760	145 391	5 725	111 534	27 683	2 916	255 270	3 241
DK	1 079 223	435 920	69 568	70 707	83 520	27 967	287 450	104 089
E	626 974	392 054	10 765	64 280	126 500	17 289	10 649	5 438
F	396 646	264 530	6 353	47 901	47 203	5 916	7 205	17 537
FIN	18 421	17 109	586	558	28	102	27	10
GR	56 817	27 550	3 811	2 557	19 841	2 429	629	0
I	126 541	63 695	1 875	11 683	37 109	1 244	10 824	111
IRL	249 801	197 316	6 578	5 836	21 579	3 974	14 310	209
NL	770 570	490 723	34 895	50 756	114 119	31 206	26 788	22 083
P	86 646	42 267	4 429	25 682	11 586	164	416	2 143
S	220 747	179 174	5 532	24 986	1 788	2 275	1 401	5 591
UK	340 123	191 507	11 457	28 892	73 801	5 899	22 367	6 201
ISL	792 660	291 272	71 882	3 072	18 675	25 729	250 378	131 652
NOR	1 810 759	1 472 644	159 667	28 598	10 875	16 729	63 614	58 632
EEA	7 230 796	4 258 412	394 415	484 286	619 802	153 490	962 174	358 257
Imports								
EU15	7 180 525	3 171 918	335 360	796 919	1 136 487	186 598	1 199 404	353 849
<i>extra-EU</i>	4 322 965	1 792 827	196 000	486 453	648 709	103 434	872 135	223 408
<i>intra-EU</i>	2 857 560	1 379 091	139 360	310 466	487 778	83 164	327 269	130 441
A	62 723	18 409	1 634	23 409	1 707	1 303	15 240	1 021
B/L	286 565	85 805	5 959	36 882	66 853	12 695	58 427	19 945
D	1 100 904	506 621	39 570	157 631	37 960	24 301	292 821	42 001
DK	682 300	415 097	38 515	22 510	59 351	24 180	86 678	35 970
E	1 129 203	560 155	47 075	43 197	358 238	11 583	93 080	15 876
F	924 228	425 894	24 908	143 744	176 048	31 266	82 634	39 735
FIN	75 659	18 765	1 640	15 099	624	2 340	31 210	5 981
GR	132 463	42 938	10 486	7 490	31 414	3 652	35 320	1 163
I	736 851	249 535	37 002	98 260	232 274	11 761	86 721	21 298
IRL	53 670	11 898	1 451	9 480	3 843	287	24 715	1 997
NL	635 055	295 425	29 620	41 449	71 915	12 984	88 282	95 381
P	299 115	156 503	80 027	7 646	40 717	1 358	12 560	306
S	171 828	92 879	14 084	30 282	16 880	10 717	5 242	1 744
UK	889 961	291 994	3 389	159 840	38 663	38 171	286 474	71 431
ISL	19 620	11 893	644	303	6 313	31	238	198
NOR	638 592	271 018	5 114	11 509	17 811	3 018	128 447	201 675
EEA	7 838 737	3 454 829	341 118	808 731	1 160 611	189 647	1 328 089	555 722
Balance of trade								
EU-15	-2 779 704	-775 588	-180 096	-408 645	-558 823	-92 131	-598 061	-166 361
A	-58 823	-16 754	-1 614	-22 500	-1 678	-1 272	-14 164	-841
B/L	-187 357	-40 200	-4 687	-30 547	-41 387	-3 075	-48 657	-18 805
D	-549 144	-361 230	-33 845	-46 097	-10 277	-21 385	-37 551	-38 760
DK	396 923	20 823	31 053	48 197	24 169	3 787	200 772	68 119
E	-502 229	-168 101	-36 310	21 083	-231 738	5 706	-82 431	-10 438
F	-527 582	-161 364	-18 555	-95 843	-128 845	-25 350	-75 429	-22 198
FIN	-57 238	-1 656	-1 054	-14 541	-596	-2 238	-31 183	-5 971
GR	-75 646	-15 388	-6 675	-4 933	-11 573	-1 223	-34 691	-1 163
I	-610 310	-185 840	-35 127	-86 577	-195 165	-10 517	-75 897	-21 187
IRL	196 131	185 418	5 127	-3 644	17 736	3 687	-10 405	-1 788
NL	135 515	195 298	5 275	9 307	42 204	18 222	-61 494	-73 298
P	-212 469	-114 236	-75 598	18 036	-29 131	-1 194	-12 144	1 837
S	48 919	86 295	-8 552	-5 296	-15 092	-8 442	-3 841	3 847
UK	-549 838	-100 487	8 068	-130 948	35 138	-32 272	-264 107	-65 230
ISL	773 040	279 379	71 238	2 769	12 362	25 698	250 140	131 454
NOR	1 172 167	1 201 626	154 553	17 089	-6 936	13 711	-64 833	-143 403
EEA	-607 941	803 583	53 297	-324 445	-540 809	-36 157	-365 915	-197 465

Table 1: Foreign trade in fishery products in 1997 (tonnes product weight).

Exports								
	Total	Fish, fresh, chilled, frozen	Fish, salted, dried or smoked	Fish preparations and conserves	Crustacea & molluscs, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted or dried	Crustacean & molluscan preparations and conserves	Fish meal	Fish fats and oils
EU-15	9 819 812	4 549 774	737 079	1 312 502	1 834 023	574 550	378 900	109 845
extra-EU	1 897 161	1 037 004	80 152	227 194	281 217	56 107	162 526	44 029
intra-EU	7 922 651	3 512 770	656 927	1 085 308	1 552 806	518 443	216 374	65 816
A	8 528	3 468	138	2 570	239	165	950	998
B/L	418 673	172 023	9 378	26 619	148 541	55 525	5 667	920
D	782 710	285 251	24 875	264 639	50 110	17 176	137 411	3 248
DK	2 319 334	1 085 338	354 970	226 748	257 247	170 786	175 732	48 513
E	1 296 101	619 521	44 724	224 388	345 513	49 177	5 676	7 101
F	970 463	526 810	32 423	150 456	214 792	30 345	5 974	9 664
FIN	18 319	10 952	3 908	2 294	251	672	22	219
GR	193 511	140 134	9 638	9 492	20 272	13 604	371	0
I	332 444	157 866	4 015	53 629	102 870	8 083	5 817	164
IRL	301 512	184 711	12 420	13 866	70 221	11 712	8 463	119
NL	1 670 287	662 562	130 714	101 226	244 908	173 447	16 780	17 406
P	230 071	85 131	15 527	77 858	46 209	397	259	4 797
S	297 416	179 128	24 521	65 678	6 909	13 304	742	7 133
UK	980 443	436 879	69 828	93 039	325 941	30 157	15 036	9 563
ISL	1 200 812	551 504	216 133	18 239	65 993	151 841	139 077	58 026
NOR	3 000 704	2 148 455	559 071	81 921	38 707	92 983	39 289	40 277
EEA	14 021 328	7 249 733	1 512 283	1 412 662	1 938 723	819 374	557 266	208 148
Imports								
EU-15	16 950 408	7 260 175	1 271 792	2 301 429	4 095 170	1 044 549	663 203	186 930
extra-EU	9 533 960	3 825 494	649 356	1 325 235	2 535 068	612 118	471 304	111 932
intra-EU	7 416 446	3 434 681	622 436	976 194	1 560 102	432 431	191 899	74 998
A	175 617	67 156	12 982	61 655	15 024	9 273	8 736	791
B/L	901 057	319 180	43 657	110 449	294 917	90 381	32 568	9 907
D	2 086 203	1 119 028	171 326	321 291	170 864	140 541	143 931	19 221
DK	1 342 390	745 301	146 808	64 547	176 157	137 526	51 291	20 760
E	2 721 570	1 177 082	133 739	121 964	1 166 756	60 312	52 722	8 996
F	2 729 498	1 170 050	98 807	470 649	779 863	145 124	44 899	20 106
FIN	111 809	36 534	3 749	34 867	3 465	11 462	18 627	3 105
GR	272 016	98 747	29 923	27 212	85 165	7 423	22 824	722
I	2 268 264	847 981	209 576	344 195	746 177	58 337	49 832	12 165
IRL	91 964	22 886	4 294	27 923	16 364	1 989	16 405	2 104
NL	1 147 185	439 151	105 612	114 364	199 069	70 468	46 481	44 878
P	662 199	243 323	251 793	21 533	134 612	3 962	6 719	257
S	527 111	259 411	47 318	80 780	74 227	58 728	3 359	3 289
UK	1 913 523	714 345	12 208	500 000	232 510	249 023	164 809	40 629
ISL	30 588	17 636	1 822	2 712	7 910	179	104	225
NOR	496 231	219 953	17 441	27 232	39 253	18 955	82 047	91 351
EEA	17 477 225	7 497 764	1 291 055	2 331 372	4 142 333	1 063 683	745 354	278 506
Balance of trade								
EU-15	-7 636 799	-2 788 490	-569 204	-1 098 041	-2 253 851	-556 011	-308 778	-67 903
A	-167 089	-63 688	-12 844	-59 085	-14 785	-9 108	-7 786	207
B/L	-482 384	-147 157	-34 279	-83 830	-146 376	-34 856	-26 901	-8 987
D	-1 303 493	-833 777	-146 451	-56 652	-120 754	-123 365	-6 520	-15 973
DK	976 944	340 037	208 162	162 201	81 090	33 260	124 441	27 753
E	-1 425 469	-557 561	-89 015	102 424	-821 243	-11 135	-47 046	-1 895
F	-1 759 035	-643 240	-66 384	-320 193	-565 071	-114 779	-38 925	-10 442
FIN	-93 490	-25 582	159	-32 573	-3 214	-10 790	-18 605	-2 886
GR	-78 505	41 387	-20 285	-17 720	-64 893	6 181	-22 453	-722
I	-1 935 820	-690 115	-205 561	-290 566	-643 307	-50 254	-44 015	-12 001
IRL	209 548	161 825	8 126	-14 057	53 857	9 723	-7 942	-1 985
NL	523 102	223 411	25 102	-13 138	45 839	102 979	-29 701	-27 472
P	-432 128	-158 192	-236 266	56 325	-88 403	-3 565	-6 460	4 540
S	-229 695	-80 283	-22 797	-15 102	-67 318	-45 424	-2 617	3 844
UK	-933 080	-277 466	57 620	-406 961	93 431	-218 866	-149 773	-31 066
ISL	1 170 224	533 868	214 311	15 527	58 083	151 662	138 973	57 801
NOR	2 504 473	1 928 502	541 630	54 690	-546	74 029	-42 758	-51 074
EEA	-3 651 878	-248 031	221 228	-918 710	-2 203 609	-244 309	-188 088	-70 358

Table 2: Foreign trade in fishery products in 1997 (thousand EUR)

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title CD-ROM Fishery statistics, 1950-1996
 Catalogue No CA-19-98-520-3A-Z Price EUR 500

➤ Databases

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