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FACT SHEET: The international fish trade and world fisheries

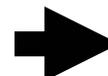
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

THE GLOBAL FISH TRADE*

Trade volumes	A large share of all fish production enters international marketing channels, with 37% (live weight equivalent) being exported in 2006.	
Value of exports	In 2006, total world exports of fish and fish products reached a record value of US\$85.9 billion, a 55% increase from 2000.	
Value of imports	Fish imports rose 49% from 2000 to 2006, reaching a new record of over US\$89.6 billion. Developed countries accounted for about 80% of imports, in value terms.	
Top exporters	China (exports valued at US\$9 billion) Norway (US\$5.5 billion) Thailand (US\$5.2 billion) USA (US\$4.1 billion) Denmark (US\$4 billion)	Canada (US\$3.7 billion) Chile (US\$3.6 billion) Viet Nam (US\$3.4 billion) Spain (US\$2.8 billion) Netherlands (US\$2.8 billion).
Top importers	Japan (US\$14.0 billion worth of imports) USA (US\$13.3 billion) Spain (US\$6.4 billion) France (US\$5.1 billion) Italy (US\$4.7 billion)	China (US\$4.1 billion) Germany (US\$3.7 billion). United Kingdom (US\$3.7 billion) Denmark (US\$2.8 billion) Korea Republic (US\$2.7 billion).
Top commodities	Shrimp continues to be the most important commodity traded in value terms, accounting for 16.6% of the total value of internationally traded fish products in 2006. The other main groups of exported species were groundfish (10.5%: e.g. hake , cod , haddock and Alaska pollock), salmon (10.7%) and tuna (7.7%). In 2006, fishmeal represented around 3.5% of the value of exports and fish oil less than 1%.	
Developing countries & global fish trade	The share of developing countries in total fishery exports was 49% by value and 59% by quantity in 2006. The net exports of fish by developing countries (i.e. the total value of their exports less the total value of their imports) has shown a continuing rising trend over recent decades, growing from US\$7.2 billion in 1986 to US\$16.7 in 1996 to US\$24.6 billion in 2006. These figures were significantly higher than those for other agricultural commodities such as rice, coffee and tea.	
Employment	In 2006, 43.5 million people directly engaged in primary production of fish, either in capture fishery or in aquaculture.	

*All figures for 2006

EUROPE & GERMANY



THE FISH TRADE & EUROPE

Imports to Europe

In 2006, European country imports of fish and fishery products reached US\$41.3 billion. The 27 European community countries (EC-27) continued to expand their dependency on imports for their fish supply. The value of these imports reached US\$37.5 billion in 2006 (+85% since 2000 and +14% since 2005). Yet 45% of these imports had an intra-EU-27 origin.

In 2006, in value terms, salmon was the main species imported by European countries (14% of total imports of fish and fishery products) followed by shrimps and prawns (13%). Other favoured species were cod (10%), tuna (7%), cephalopods (5%) and freshwater fish (4%).

Top exporters to Europe

In 2006, in value terms, 59% of the European imports of fish and fishery products originated from other European countries. Major suppliers were Norway (11%), Denmark (7%), Spain (6%), the Netherlands (5%) and China (4%). Other leading non-European suppliers were the USA (3%), Morocco (3%), Argentina (2%), Viet Nam (2%) and Chile (1%).

Exports from Europe

In 2006, EU-27 exports of fish products were valued at US\$21.6 billion, representing a growth of 83% since 2000. About 85% were destined to other EU-27 countries. (The increase of EU-27 imports and exports is also due to the appreciation of European currencies against the US dollar.)

In 2006, in value terms, salmon was also the main species exported (19% of the value of all EC-27 exports of fish and fishery products. Salmon was mainly exported in fresh or chilled form. Other top species exported were cod (12%), shrimps (8%), tunas (5%), herrings (4%) and mackerel (3%).

Exports from Europe

In 2006, 86% of the value of EC-27 exports was directed to other European countries. France was the main market (12% of exports), then Italy (11%), Germany (9%), Spain (8%) and the UK (8%). Major non-European markets were Japan (3%), China (2%) and Nigeria (1%).

THE FISH TRADE & GERMANY

Trade flows

Germany, with imports valued at US\$3.7 billion, was the world's seventh largest importer of fish and fish products and the fifteenth exporter (US\$1.8 billion in 2006).

Countries exporting to Germany

In 2006, in value terms, main suppliers to Germany were **Denmark, the Netherlands, China, Poland, Norway, Peru, Chile, Russian Federation and Thailand**. 46% of German fishery imports originated from the EU-27.

German exports

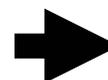
In 2006, **France, the Netherlands, Austria, Italy, UK, Denmark and Belgium** represented the main outlets for German exports of fish, in value terms. 88% of its exports were directed to EU-27 countries.

Top commodities

Marine fish including salmons, cods, herrings, tunas are the most important commodity traded in Germany. In 2006, salmon made up 22.9% of the total value of traded fish products, followed by cods (including hake, cods, haddock and Alaska Pollack) at 19.8%, and shrimp (7.4%).

Consumption

In 2005, German per caput fish consumption was 14.8/kg, with fish representing a share of 7.8% in animal proteins and 4.7% in total proteins. On average, per capita fish consumption in the EU-27 is of about 22/kg, with fish having a share of about 10% of total animal proteins and 6% of total proteins. World-wide, per capita consumption is estimated at 16.5/kg, with fish accounting for 15.5% of animal proteins and 5.9% of all proteins.



FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

Global production	Total global fishery production from capture fisheries and aquaculture combined reached 144 million tonnes in 2006, with 36% of that coming from aquaculture. With aquaculture excluded, world global capture fisheries production in 2006 was 92 million tonnes.
European production	During the 1997-2006 period, total catches by the EU-27 countries decreased by 26%, from 7.6 to 5.7 million tonnes. Poland, Denmark and Greece are the countries which most reduced most their catches in the last decade. These figures include catches in inland waters and from distant water fleets.
Top fishing countries, worldwide	The ranking of top ten capture fishery producing countries has been quite stable since 1992, with China, Peru and the United States occupying the top three positions since 2001.
Top fishing countries, Europe	The main capture-fisheries countries among the EU-27 are Spain, Denmark, the United Kingdom and France , all producing over 0.5 million tonnes in 2006. Germany , with almost 0.3 million tonnes, ranked seventh among the EU countries
Top species, worldwide & in Europe	The most caught species at the global level is by far the Peruvian anchoveta (7 million tonnes in 2006). It is followed by Alaska pollock, skipjack tuna, Atlantic herring and blue whiting . Atlantic herring is the most caught species by the EU-27 countries, followed by European sprat, blue whiting and Atlantic mackerel .
Top species, Germany	The top species in German catches in 2006 were Atlantic herring, European sprat and blue whiting .
Top aquaculture countries, worldwide	China is by far the leading aquaculture producer, accounting for about two thirds of world aquaculture production. The other major aquaculture producing countries are India, Viet Nam, Thailand, and Indonesia . The EU-27 account for 2.5% of world aquaculture production (1.3 million tonnes in 2006).
Top aquaculture countries, Europe	Main aquaculture producing countries in 2006 among the EU-27 were Spain, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and Greece . Germany, with 35 thousands tonnes, ranked tenth among the EU countries
Top cultured species, worldwide	Various carps are the major species group cultured, accounting for 40% of production in weight, followed by other fresh water fishes and oysters. Whiteleg shrimp and Atlantic salmon are two major cultured species in value followed by silver carp, Grass carp, and Giant tiger prawn. Sea mussel is the species most widely cultured by the EU-27 countries, followed by rainbow trout, blue mussel, and Atlantic salmon .
Top cultured species, Germany	Top species in 2006 German aquaculture production were rainbow trout, common carp and blue mussel .

Source: Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO
<http://www.fao.org/fishery/>