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THE NETHERLANDS IN THE WORLD AND IN THE EU

2023, sources: Eurostat and FAO

In 2023, the Netherlands ranked 4th in the EU-27 in terms of fishery production and 8th for farmed production.

(1.000 tonnes)	World	EU-27	Netherlands	% world	% EU-27
Catches	91.681	3.555	268	0,33%	8%
Aquaculture	136.140	1.043	41	0,03%	4%
Total	**227.821**	**4.598**	**309**	**0,15%**	**7%**

FISHING FLEET

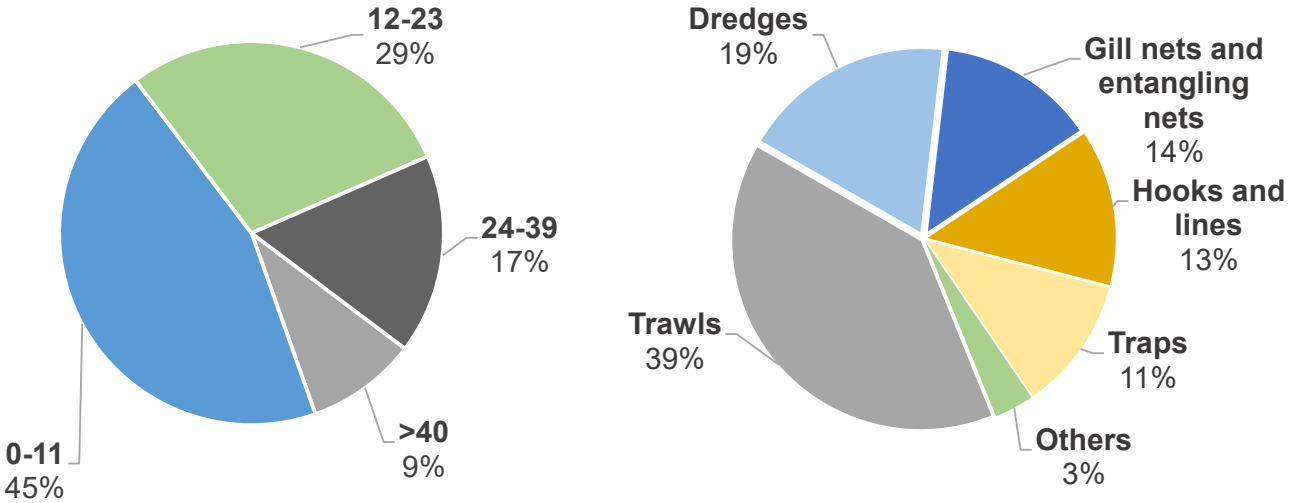
Fleet: 2024, source: EU fishing fleet register - Eurostat Employment: 2023, source: JRC

Vessels (2024)	Capacity (2024)	Power (2024)	
Number: 761	GT: 98.744	KW: 242.341	
TOTAL FTE: 1.225 (2023, source: JRC)			
0-11 m	**12-23 m**	**24-39 m**	**>40 m**
Jobs (FTE): 3%	Jobs (FTE): 34%	Jobs (FTE): 19%	Jobs (FTE): 44%

GT: Gross tonnage - KW: Kilowatt - FTE: Full Time Equivalent

The Dutch fishing fleet by length and gear

(% of total number of vessels)



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LANDINGS

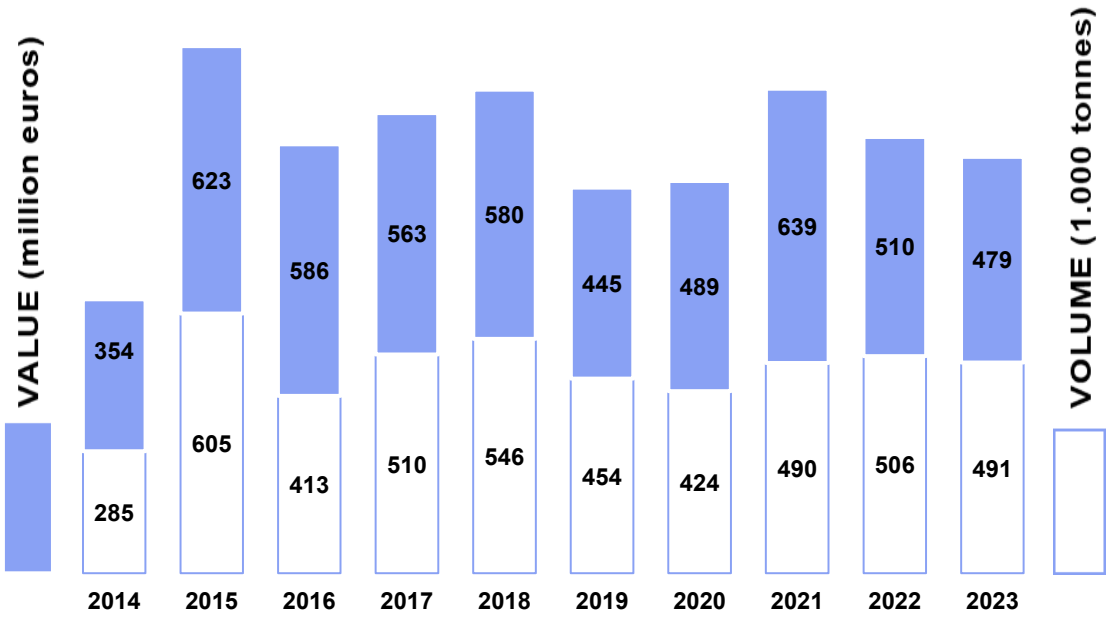
Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat data.

Landings comprise the initial unloading of any fisheries products from on board a fishing vessel in a given Member State. They include aquatic plants and species not destined for human consumption. Landings are recorded in net weight and value, and concern landings made by vessels from EU Member States, Iceland, Norway and the UK.

Landings in the Netherlands are destined for human consumption only. In 2023, 82% of landings included frozen whole/gutted products, 15% included fresh whole/gutted products and 3% included cooked products.

There are 53 fishing ports registered in the Netherlands (source: EU Master Data Register, 03 December 2025).

Total landings. Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2020)



Main commercial species landed and % of total

2023, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes

HERRING	69	14%	178	36%	BLUE WHITING
BLUE WHITING	67	14%	149	30%	HERRING
COMMON SOLE	58	12%	60	12%	MACKEREL
MACKEREL	52	11%	17	4%	CLAM
SHRIMP *CRANGON* SPP.	44	9%	12	2%	EUROPEAN PLAICE
OTHERS	190	40%	74	15%	OTHERS

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AQUACULTURE

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat and FAO data.

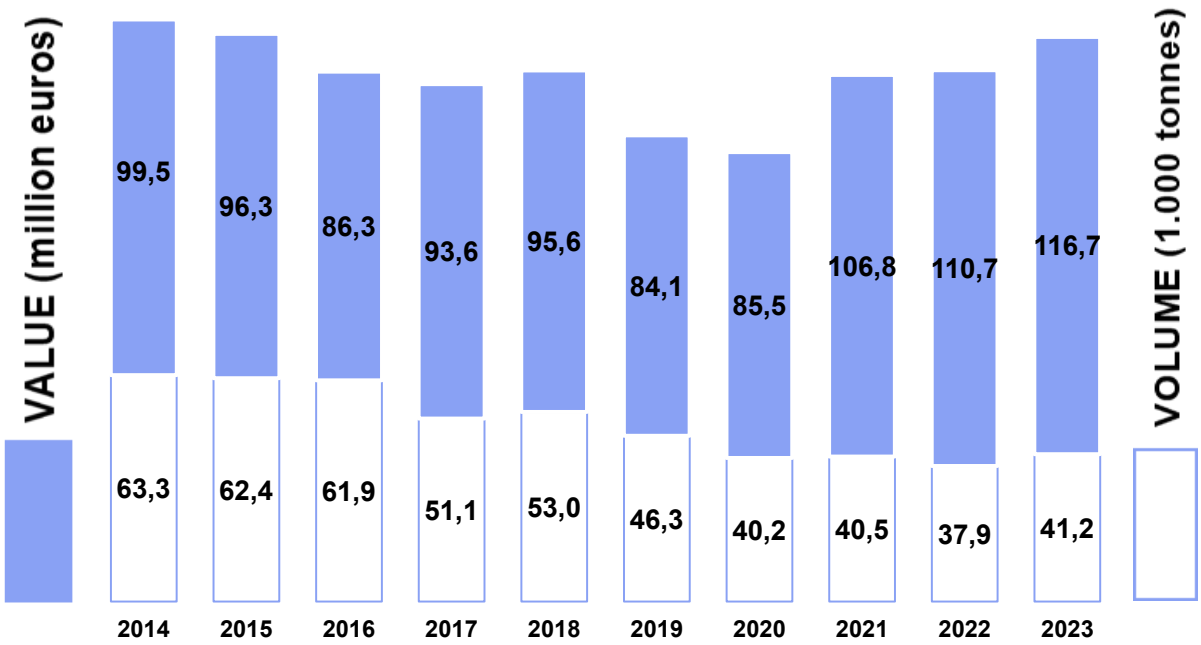
Aquaculture consists in the farming of aquatic (fresh or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Aquaculture data are reported in live weight equivalent and value.

In 2023, most of the Dutch production occurred in sea and brackish waters. The following main production methods were used:

- 79% of production: on bottom in sea and brackish waters;
- 4% of production: off bottom in sea and brackish waters.

The rest of production used other methods for which no detail is available.

Total production. Values are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2020)



Main commercial species farmed and % of total
2023, million euros (nominal value) and 1.000 tonnes

MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.	55,7	47,7%	32,5	78,8%	MUSSEL *MYTILUS* SPP.
OYSTER	4,6	3,9%	1,6	4,0%	OYSTER
OTHERS	56,5	48,4%	7,1	17,2%	OTHERS

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PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

Source: European Commission, List of the recognised producer organisations in the fishery and aquaculture sector

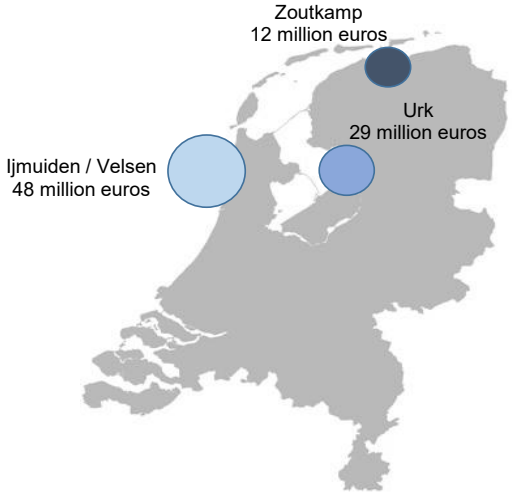
In the Netherlands, **10 producer organisations (POs)** and **1 association of POs** are formally recognized. Their role is to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and of the Common organisation of the markets (CMO) through the collective management of their members' activities. Of the 10 POs, 9 operate in the fishery sector and 1 in aquaculture. The association of POs operates in the fishery sector.

FIRST SALES

2025, 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. Twelve auctions exist in the Netherlands, covering demersal species and mussels. Seven of them are PEFA-auctions (PEFA is an electronic fresh fish auction for the European market). The action in Yerseke covers mussels only and is the only auction of its kind in the world. The sellers at the demersal auctions are the fishermen, and the members of the Urk/Harlingen auctions are organised into a cooperative. In the pelagic sector, the seller (the owner of the vessel) is often the buyer as well, meaning that the value may only reflect payment to the fishermen or a set price.

In 2025, total first sales in Dutch auctions amounted to 26.682 tonnes and 145 million euros. The top-3 places of sale covered 68% and 62% of total first sales, respectively in volume and value terms.



Top-3 auctions	Volume (tonnes)	Value (million euros)	Top-3 main commercial species (in value)
IJmuiden/Velsen	10.725	48	Common sole, mackerel, squid
Urk	5.397	29	Common sole, turbot, European plaice
Zoutkamp	1.899	12	Shrimp *crangon* spp.

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WHOLESALE

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 not many “pure wholesalers” in the Netherlands, as many of the processing companies, especially dealing with pelagic species, have ownership in the boats landing the fish and in the wholesalers purchasing the first sales.

A large part of the seafood sold at auctions or imported go straight to the processing plants, situated mostly in and around the auctions.

There are no mixed or redistribution markets (wholesale markets) either. Information on companies’ volume sold and market shares are not publicly available.

Source: Dutch Fish Marketing Board

PROCESSING

According to Eurostat-SBS, 3.351 persons were employed in the Dutch fish processing industry in 2023. The sector recorded a value added of 215 million euros, covering 1% of the value added of total manufacture of food products.

In 2024, the main products sold were “Fish fillets in batter or breadcrumbs including fish fingers (excluding prepared meals and dishes)” and “Frozen fish meat, whether or not minced (excluding fillets and surimi)” (source: Eurostat-PRODCOM).

206 companies
Net turnover: 1,5 billion euros
(2024, source: Eurostat - SBS)

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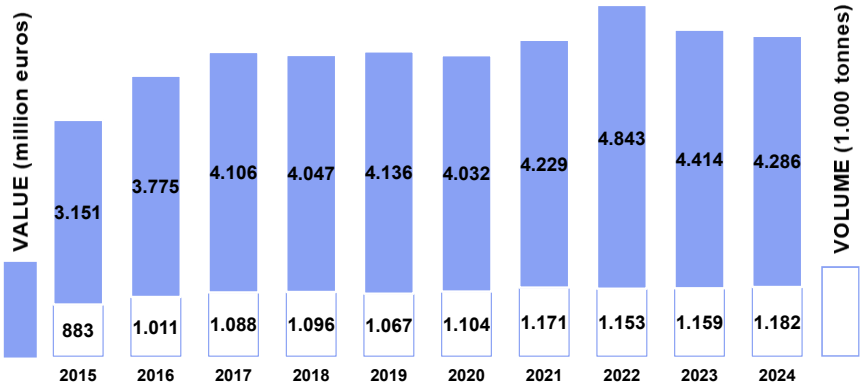
IMPORT – EXPORT

Source: EUMOFA, based on Eurostat-COMEXT data

Values in the bar charts are deflated by using the GDP deflator (base=2020)

IMPORT

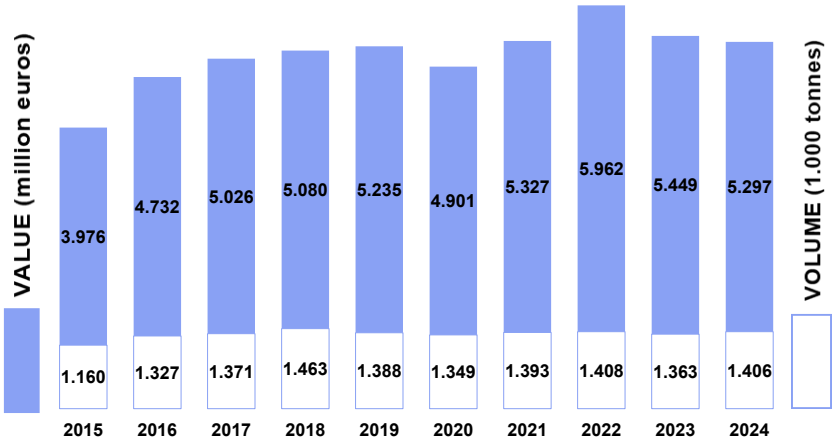


Main commercial species imported and % of total imports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	1079	20%
COD	991	19%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY WARMWATER)	557	11%
SKIPJACK TUNA	310	6%
MACKEREL	157	3%
OTHERS	2185	41%

EXPORT



Main commercial species exported and % of total exports

2024, million euros (nominal value)

SALMON	1321	20%
COD	842	13%
SHRIMPS (MOSTLY MISCELLANEOUS)	680	10%
SKIPJACK TUNA	254	4%
MACKEREL	221	3%
OTHERS	3206	49%

Main countries of **ORIGIN** (in value, 2024)

- Iceland 16%
- Norway 10%
- Germany 7%
- Belgium 6%

Main countries of **DESTINATION** (in value, 2024)

- Germany 19%
- Belgium 13%
- France 13%
- Spain 8%

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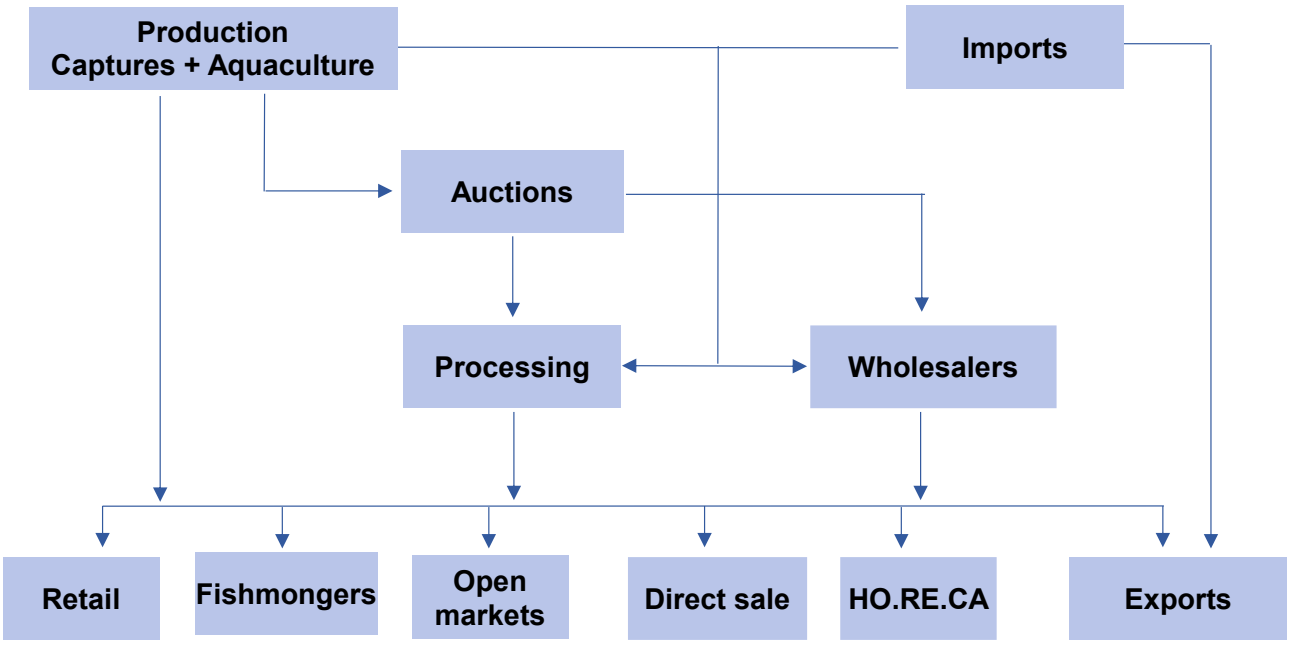
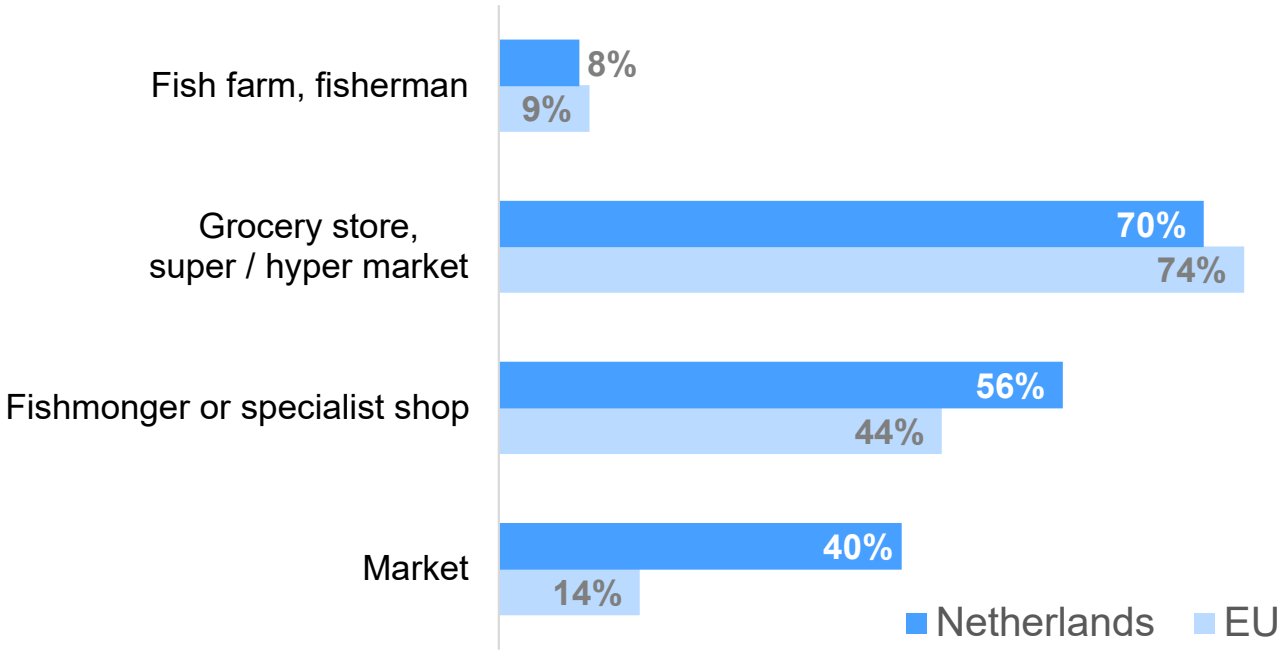
DISTRIBUTION

The supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products in the Netherlands (source: Dutch Fish Marketing Board):



Consumer preferences on purchasing channels (source: Eurobarometer, 2024):



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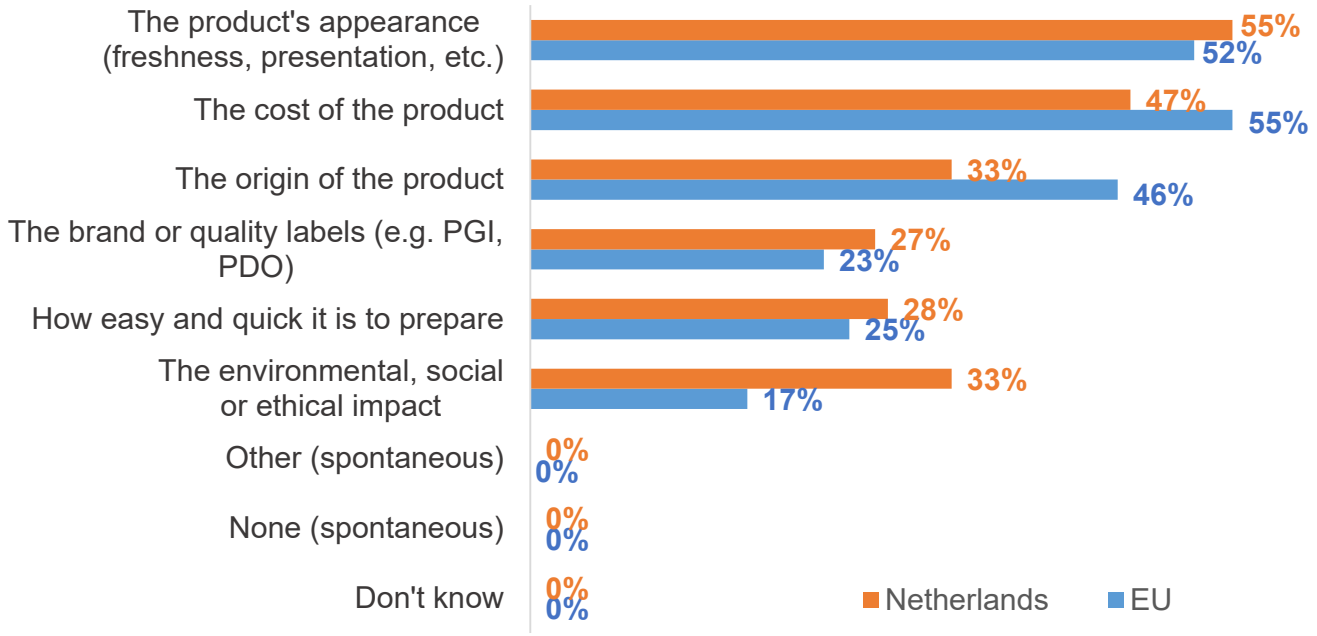
CONSUMPTION

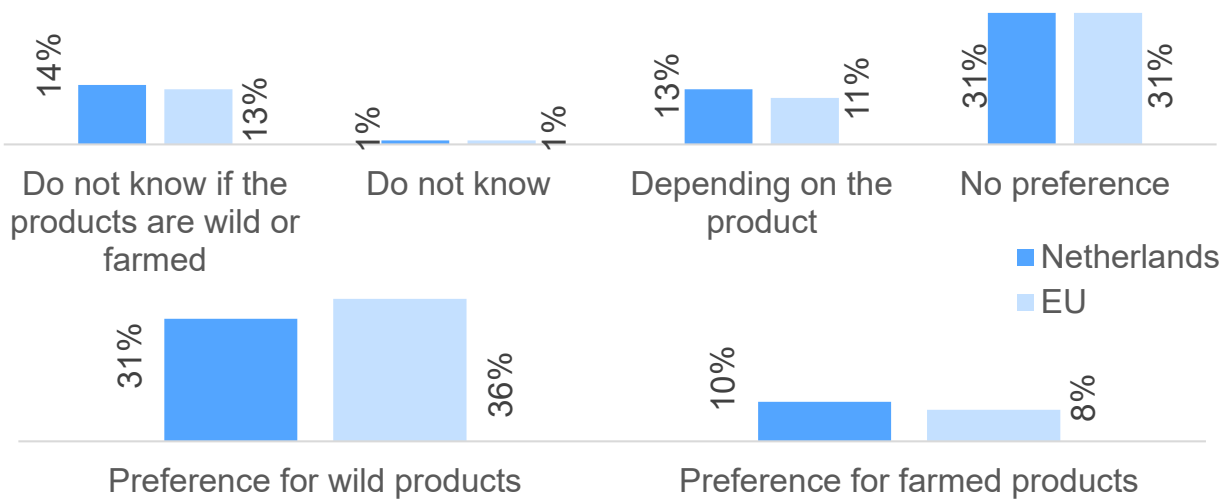
In 2023, apparent consumption was estimated at 19,90 kg per capita, a 5% increase compared with 2022. The most consumed species were cod, Alaska pollock, mackerel, hake and warmwater shrimps (source: EUMOFA).

19,90 kg
per capita in live weight equivalent
(2023, source: Dutch Fish Marketing Board)

Purchasing factors (source: Eurobarometer, 2024)



Preferences regarding wild or farmed product (source: Eurobarometer, 2024)



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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 dashboards, 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 dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility.

FIRST SALES

Volumes and values are collected on a monthly basis from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) - Fishery regulations. Data cover all species sold in the 12 Dutch auctions. They are accessible through dashboards, as well as through 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 dashboards, 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 dashboards, as well as through the bulk download facility.

CONSUMPTION

Volumes and values of household consumption of fresh fisheries and aquaculture products are collected from Europanel based on panel reporting. Data are monitored for 10 main commercial species + the item “Others”, aggregating all other species. Data are available on a monthly and yearly basis and accessible through dashboards and the bulk download facility. Retail prices from online shops are also available, as collected via price-scraper.