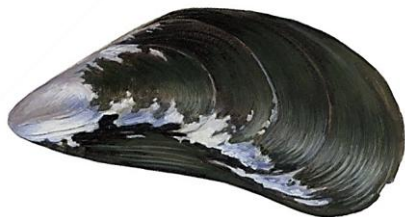




MUSSEL

(*MYTILUS EDULIS* AND *MYTILUS GALLOPROVINCIALIS*)



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Mytilus edulis (1) and *Mytilus galloprovincialis* (2)

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

- **Species description** (Read more [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#))

Mussel is the common name used for members of several families of bivalve molluscs. *Mytilus edulis* (blue mussel) and *Mytilus galloprovincialis* (Mediterranean mussel) are the main species of the family of Mytilidae produced and consumed in the EU.

- **Geographical distribution and habitat** (Read more [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#))

Mussels are found in a wide variety of habitats, from tidal areas to fully submerged zones, with a broad range of temperatures and salinities.

RESOURCE, EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT

- **Production methods and fishing gears** (Read more [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#))

In the wild, mussels are caught using dredges and trawls.

When farmed, mussels are produced using bottom culture techniques (sheltered beds) or suspended and off-bottom (rafts, *bouchots*, longlines).

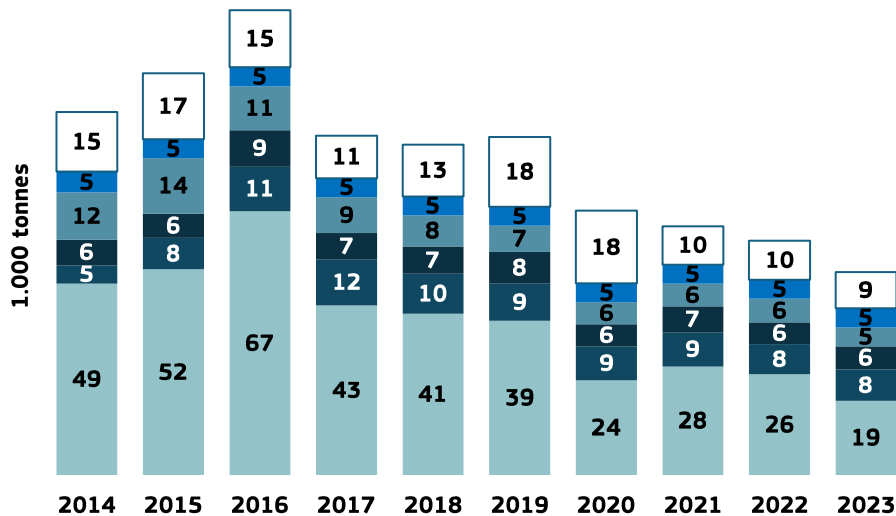


CATCHES

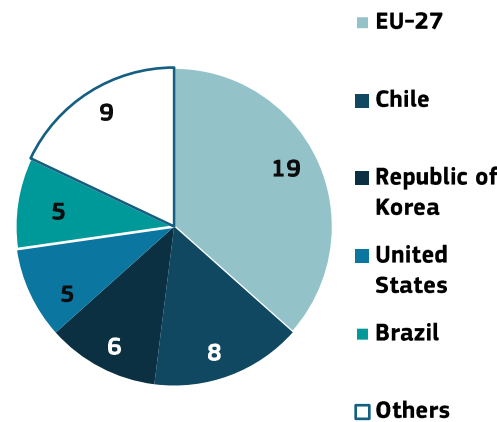
Evolution of world catches

- At global level, catches of mussels (mainly blue mussels, 45% of world mussels' catches) amounted at circa 51.500 tonnes in 2023 (i.e. **0,1%** of total global catches). The EU is the main producer globally (37% of the catches) in 2023.

■ EU-27 ■ Chile ■ Republic of Korea ■ United States ■ Brazil □ Others



Catches (2023, 1.000 tonnes)

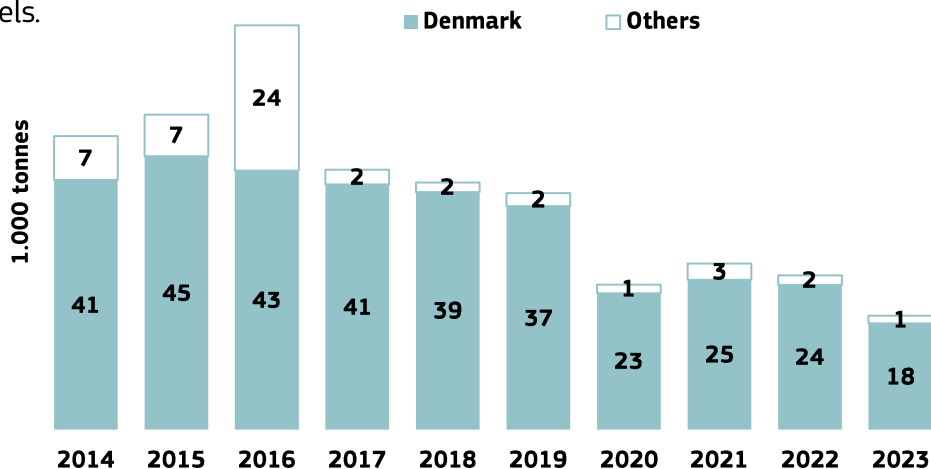


Source: FAO

Note: The volume variation under the category « others » is linked to irregular catches in Germany during the studied period.

Evolution of EU catches

- In 2023, the EU catches of mussels amounted to 18.868 tonnes.
- The same year, Denmark provided 93% of the EU catches and 34% of global catches of mussels.



Source: FAO

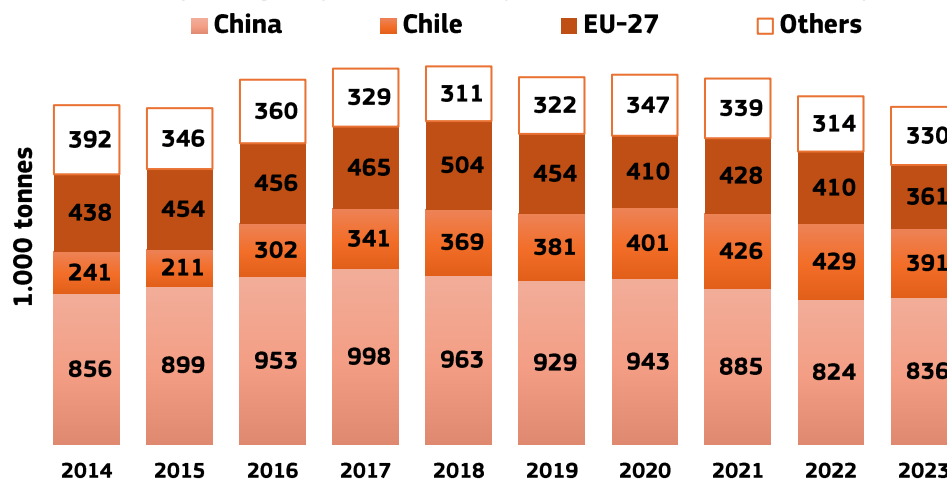
Note: The volume variation under the category « others » is linked to irregular catches in Germany during the studied period.



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

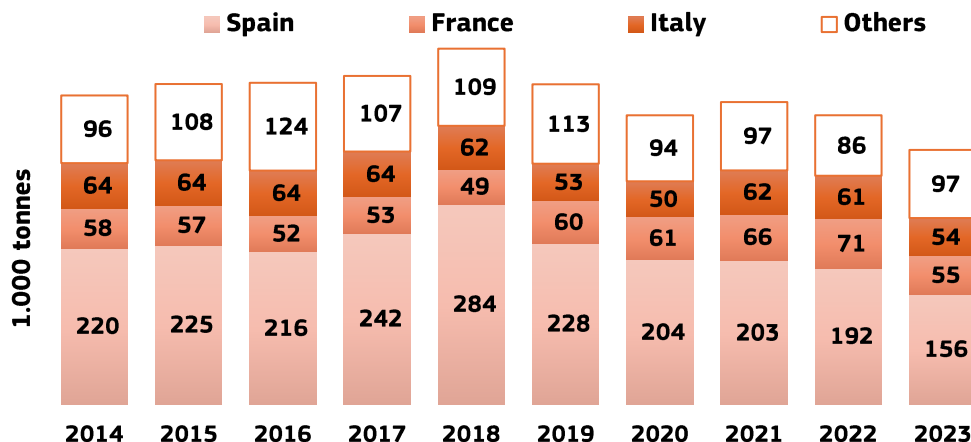
Evolution of world aquaculture production

- From 2014 to 2023, the global mussel's aquaculture production remained stable (1%). It increased until 2018 before decreasing again, driven mainly by the decrease of the Chinese and Spanish production. China and Chile were the top-two producers. They provided 64% of the global production in 2023.
- Global mussel aquaculture production reached almost 2.000.000 tonnes in 2023, out of which *Mytilus edulis* and *Mytilus galloprovincialis* represented 11% (almost all produced in the EU).



Evolution of EU aquaculture production

- In 2023, the EU production reached over 360.500 tonnes, contributing to 19% of the global mussels' production. The EU production of *Mytilus edulis* and *Mytilus galloprovincialis* reached 125.210 tonnes and 76.268 tonnes respectively. From 2014 to 2023, the EU production of mussels decreased by 18%.
- The top-three EU producers (Spain, France, and Italy) accounted for 73% of the EU production of mussels in 2023. Production of all top-three producers decreased between 2014 and 2023, respectively by 29%, 5%, and 16%.



Source: FAO

Note: For Spain, data are reported under the statistical category 'sea mussels nei', which corresponds to *Mytilus galloprovincialis* and to lesser extent to *Mytilus edulis*. For UK, data are reported under the category Mytilidae.



Mussels

PROCESSING

- Traditionally, a large part of mussels is consumed live or fresh, while there has also been production of canned mussel (e.g. Spain). With the increase of frozen and prepared mussel imports, in recent years, the processing industry has opted for more added value products through a greater degree of processing, especially ready-to-eat products such as boiled mussels with and without shell (e.g. Ireland) and even processed dishes of fresh mussels in different sauces.
- There are no specific data on EU production of processed mussels at EU level. Data are available for Spain which is the main producer of processed mussel in the EU (mainly canned mussels). In 2023, it produced 10.931 tonnes of canned mussels (net weight) for a value of over EUR 138 million (+3% in volume and -1% in value in comparison to 2023) (Source: Spanish association of canned fish: *Asociación Nacional de Fabricantes de Conservas de Pescados*, ANFACO).



TRADE

- **Combined nomenclature** [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#)

EU imports-exports (2024, EU-27)

Concerning the genus *Mytilus*, which is produced in EU, trade is mainly intra-EU. Extra-EU trade concerns other species than *Mytilus spp.*

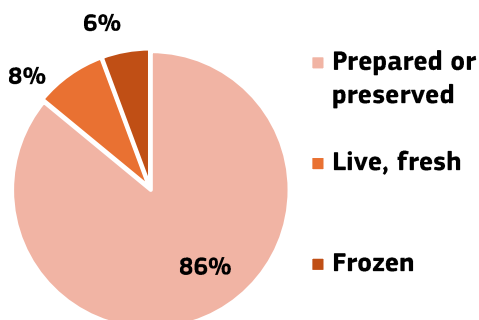
EU trade of mussels (tonnes - 2024)

CN code	Product	EU imports	EU exports
03 07 31 10	Mussels " <i>Mytilus spp.</i> ", Live, fresh or chilled	5.112	1.615
03 07 31 90	Mussels " <i>Perna spp.</i> ", live, fresh or chilled, with or without shell	0	105
03 07 32 10	Mussels " <i>Mytilus spp.</i> ", frozen	22	929
03 07 32 90	Mussels " <i>Perna spp.</i> ", frozen, even in shell	3.430	127
03 07 39 20	Mussels " <i>Mytilus spp.</i> ", smoked, dried, salted or in brine	0	110
03 07 39 80	Mussels " <i>Perna spp.</i> ", smoked, dried, salted or in brine, even in shell	40	38
16 05 53 10	Mussels, prepared or preserved, in airtight containers	10.629	1.367
16 05 53 90	Mussels, prepared or preserved, other	41.826	1.782
Total		61.059	6.073

Extra-EU imports of mussels reached over 61.000 tonnes in 2024. These were constituted mostly by other mussels' species than *Mytilus spp.* (i.e. *Perna spp.*)

- 86% of EU imports concerned preserved mussels (52.455 tonnes), which are imported from Chile. These imports have increased by 38% between 2015 and 2024.
- Only 8% of EU imports concerned live, fresh mussels in 2024, imported from the UK.
- Spain, France and Italy were the main importers in the EU (together they represented 77% of EU mussels' imports in 2024).

Imports by product type (2024 % in volume)



EU imports of preserved mussels from Chile (tonnes)



Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT



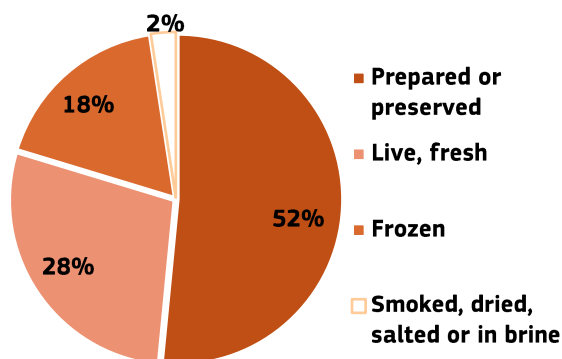
Mussels

TRADE

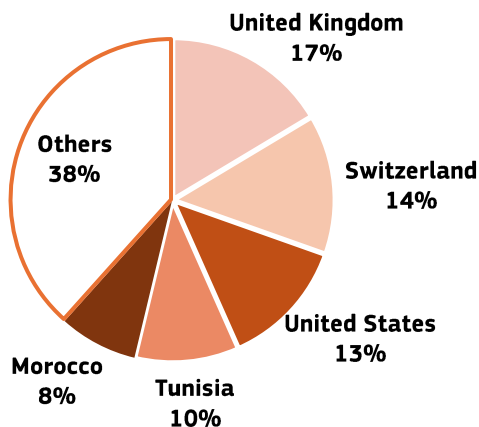
Extra-EU exports reached circa 6.100 tonnes in 2024. Mussels' exports concerned mainly prepared and preserved mussels (52%) and live and fresh mussels (28%). Main destinations were United Kingdom (16% of the EU exports, in volume terms), Switzerland (14%), the USA (13%), Tunisia (10%), and Morocco (8%).

Spain, Italy, France, and Denmark were the main exporters, together they accounted for 75% of EU mussels' exports in 2024.

Exports by product type (2024, % in volume)



Main destinations (2024, % in volume)



Source: EUROSTAT-COMEXT

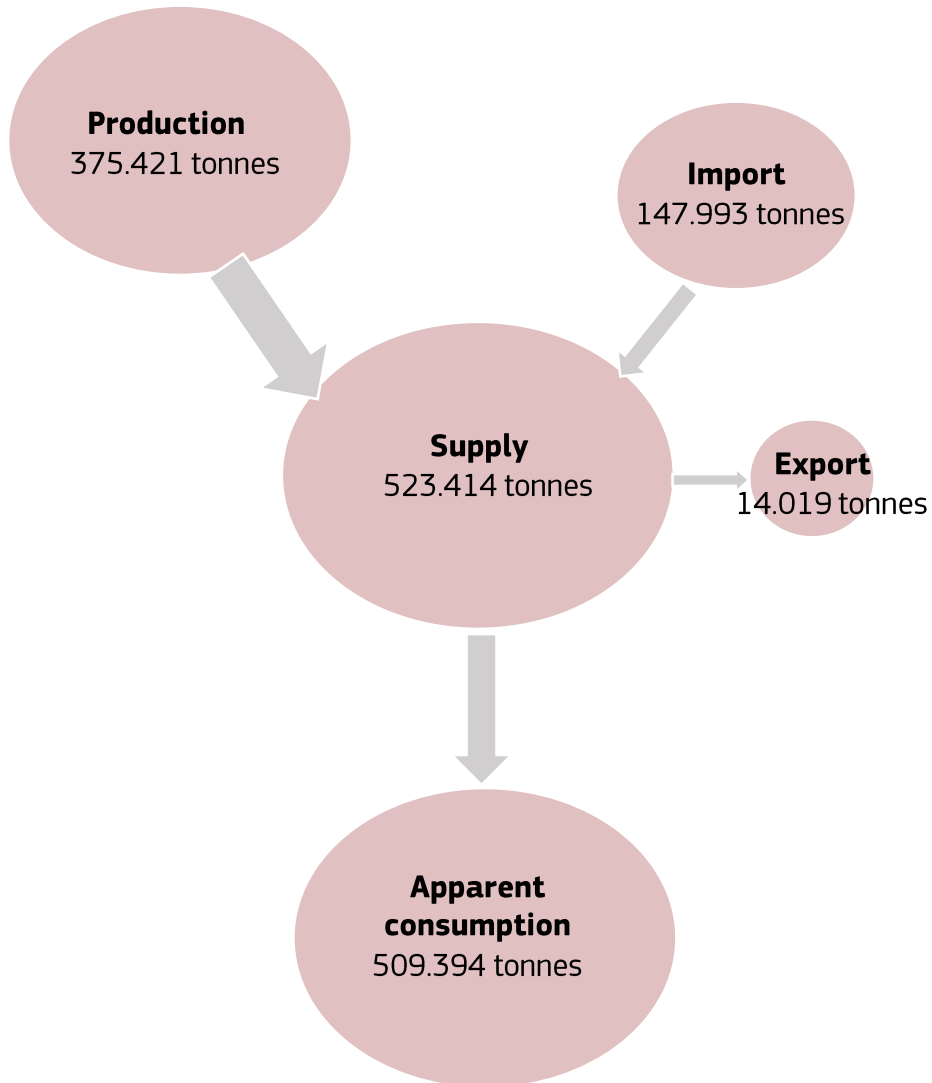


Mussels

Supply balance

EU supply balance (2023¹) – Tonnes of live weight equivalent² - Mussels:

Data concern *Mytilus edulis*, *Mytilus galloprovincialis* and other species of *Mytilus*



Source: FAO/ EUROSTAT-COMEXT

¹ Supply balance is provided for the year 2023 (trade data for 2023 were taken into account). Detailed trade data provided in the slides 5 and 6 concern the year 2024.

² The [conversion factors](#) were used to convert net weight of imports and exports of fishery and aquaculture products into live weight equivalents.



Mussels

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

First-sale (wild)/ Ex-farm (farmed) - live/fresh

First-sale prices are presented for the main producers in the EU : Denmark for wild blue mussel; Spain and Italy for farmed *M. galloprovincialis* and France and Netherlands for farmed *M. edulis*.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Denmark (wild)	0,27	0,24	0,23	0,20	0,20	0,24	0,24	0,26	0,24	0,20	EUMOFA
Spain (farmed)	0,55	0,54	0,55	0,52	0,52	0,68	0,81	0,81	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
France (farmed)	2,39	2,62	2,11	2,28	2,27	2,26	2,37	2,48	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Italy (farmed)	0,84	0,90	0,87	0,85	0,88	0,90	1,00	1,46	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA
Netherlands (farmed)	0,84	1,07	1,13	1,20	1,38	1,99	1,73	1,71	n.a.	n.a.	EUMOFA

(*) From January to September 2025

Wholesale (fresh)

Wholesale prices are provided for the largest seafood wholesale market in the EU, Mercamadrid.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Source
Spain	1,92	1,9	1,97	1,91	1,73	1,8	1,87	2	2,17	2,26	Mercamadrid
France "moule de bouchot"	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,35	3,19	4,50	4,05	3,82	RNM Rungis

(*) From January to October 2025

Retail/consumption (fresh)

Retail prices refer to Denmark, France, Spain, Netherlands, and Italy (prices refer to *Mytilus spp.*).

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Denmark	3,8	5,02	4,79	8,03	4,76	5,15	4,10	4,21	4,21	5,42	EUMOFA
Netherlands	4,45	3,60	3,84	3,86	5,04	4,48	4,52	4,56	4,74	5,11	EUMOFA
France	4,32	4,51	4,7	4,71	4,76	4,76	5,47	5,58	5,37	5,35	RNM Rungis
Spain - frozen mussel	6,49	6,12	6,69	6,64	7,04	7,2	7,92	8,64	9,07	n.a.	MAPA
Spain - fresh mussel	2,52	2,55	2,58	2,62	2,81	3,66	3,79	3,81	3,95	n.a.	
Italy	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,2	1,25	1,25	1,38	1,31	1,33	1,38	ISMEA

(*) From January to September 2025



Mussels

PRICES ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN (EUR/kg)

Extra-EU import (prepared/preserved from Chile)

Extra-EU imports concern prepared/preserved mussels (from species other than *Mytilus spp.*). The main importers were Spain, France, Italy and to lesser extent the Netherlands.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Spain	3,07	3,2	3,09	4,4	3,51	3,10	3,53	3,76	3,52	3,95	EUMOFA
France	2,4	2,32	2,19	2,27	2,53	2,48	2,97	2,93	2,64	2,68	EUMOFA
Italy	2,38	2,4	2,17	n.a.	2,42	2,28	2,71	2,73	2,49	2,67	EUMOFA
Netherlands	2,59	2,44	2,18	2,43	2,71	2,52	3,12	3,16	2,82	3,19	EUMOFA

(*) From January to September 2025

Extra-EU export (fresh)

Extra-EU exports concern mainly fresh mussels of the species *Mytilus spp.* Main exporters are Ireland, Italy, Denmark and France.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Source
Denmark	1,97	2,31	3,97	n.a.	1,97	2,27	1,99	2,49	8,00	2,22	EUMOFA
Ireland	5,03	6	3,75	3,74	1,37	26,81	1,77	2,34	2,70	2,02	EUMOFA
Italy	5,03	5,19	5,45	4,16	3,39	6,68	8,05	6,57	8,87	9,00	EUMOFA
France	3,78	3,5	3,54	3,89	4,50	4,54	5,55	5,37	5,37	4,95	EUMOFA

(*) From January to September 2025



MARKETING

- National lists of commercial designations ([Read more](#)).
- Information system on commercial designations and scientific names in all EU languages ([Read more \(1\) \(2\)](#)).
- In the EU, there are three names protected under **Protected Designations of Origin** (PDO) and one name under **Traditional Specialities Guaranteed** (TSG) for fresh mussels. They are:
 - PDO “**Mejillón de Galicia; Mexillón de Galicia**” in Spain;
 - PDO “**Moules de Bouchot de la Baie du Mont-Saint-Michel**” in France;
 - PDO “**Cozza di Scardovari**” in Italy;
 - TSG “**Moules de Bouchot**” in France.

CONSUMPTION

- Mussel (all species included) is the sixth most consumed species in the EU (source: [The EU Fish Market – 2025 edition](#), EUMOFA)
- Mussel (all species included) apparent consumption per capita in 2023: **1,14 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [Supply balance - 2023](#), EUMOFA)
- Apparent consumption of *Mytilus spp* in 2023: **0,85 kg** live weight equivalent (source: [Supply balance - 2023](#), EUMOFA)
- Nutritional value (Blue mussel, Mediterranean mussel, nutrition values per serving 100 g), [Read more \(1\) \(2\)](#)

Nutrition values	Blue mussel	Mediterranean mussel
Energy (kcal)	86	86
Total fat (g)	2,24	0,96
Saturates (g)	0,425	0,187
Carbohydrate (g)	3,69	3,57
Sugar (g)	0	0
Protein (g)	11,9	14,67
Salt (mg)	715	1502,5