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European Ornamental Fish Import & Export Statistics: 2015

Ornamental fish imported to the EU from non EU-member states (extra-EU trade) arrive via border inspection posts (BIPs). At clearance, the relevant customs authorities log value and freight weight of these consignments. "Live ornamental freshwater fish" and "Live ornamental fish (excl. freshwater)" (marines) are given different commodity codes; 03011100 for freshwater fish and 03011900 for marines. No further differentiation can be made, for instance to cold water or tropical fish. These two commodity codes do not include ornamental invertebrates such as corals, molluscs or crustaceans.

The value of imports appears to be accurately recorded but freight weights (other than in the UK) seem to be inaccurately and/or poorly recorded. Therefore, no analysis of freight weights has been attempted. Value is not the most reliable indicator of the volume (number) of ornamental fish due to factors such as variations in the price of fish, inflation, variation in rate of exchange, cost of freight and fuel, etc. This can make the direct comparison between years difficult, but it is the best data available. Every year, OATA prepare this report with data from Eurostat records.

Even though total value of imports for ornamental fish into the EU has declined in the past decade (16% decrease from the peak in import values of 93.4 million € 2006 to 78.2 million € in 2015), it experienced an 8% increase in relation to 2014 (72.3 million € in 2014). (**Figure 1**)

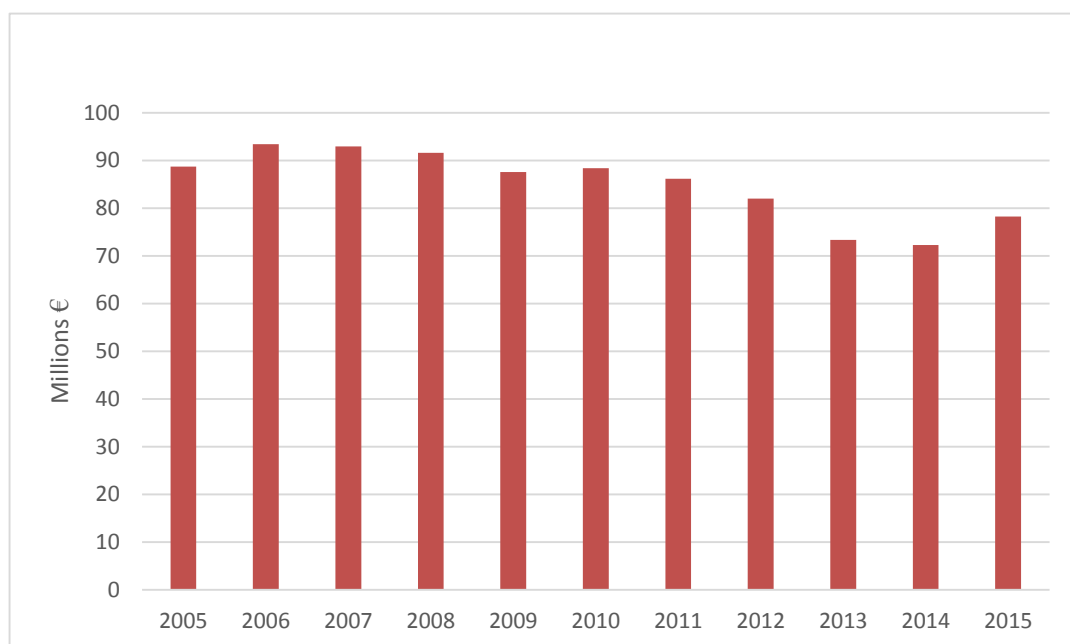


Figure 1. Total value of freshwater and marine ornamental fish imports into the EU between 200 and 2015 (in million €)

Importing Countries

The top 10 European importers of ornamental fish by value from outside the EU remain the same as in previous years and the UK continues to be the largest importer by value in the EU, importing nearly 28% of the total (**Table 1**). However, this has not always been the case. Since OATA's data collection began in 1989, Germany always imported more than the UK until 2004 when their non-EU imports dropped sharply due to the fact that Germany imported a large quantity of fish from the Czech Republic which became a member of the EU in that year.

The value of imports from non-EU countries to the Netherlands has nearly doubled since 1993, becoming the third largest importer of ornamental fish in 2006 to present day. Spain, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic re-export much of what they import to elsewhere in the EU. Meanwhile, the total value of non-EU imports for France remained relatively static from 1993 until 2013, when value of imports into that country started experiencing a decline.

Table 1. Top 10 EU countries importing ornamental fish from non-EU countries between 2010 and 2015

COUNTRY	2015		2014		2013		2010	
	€ (000s)	% of total EU imports	€ (000s)	% of total EU imports	€ (000s)	% of total EU imports	€ (000s)	% of total EU imports
U.K.	21,720	27.8	19,745	27.3	19,639	26.8	20,920	23.7
Germany	14,707	18.8	13,149	18.2	13,547	18.5	16,813	19.0
Netherlands	10,652	13.6	9,069	12.5	8,728	11.9	11,995	13.6
France	6,812	8.7	7,212	10.0	7,595	10.4	9,399	10.6
Italy	4,979	6.4	4,920	6.8	4,969	6.8	6,741	7.6
SUBTOTAL (1-5)	58,870	75.3	54,095	74.9	54,478	74.4	65,868	71.9
Spain	4,340	5.5	4,281	5.9	4,063	5.5	4,973	5.6
Belgium/ Luxembourg	3,447	4.4	3,374	4.7	3,778	5.2	3,975	4.5
Czech Republic	2,563	3.3	2,205	3.1	2,006	2.7	2,081	2.4
Poland	2,280	2.9	1,886	2.6	1,729	2.4	2,094	2.4
Sweden	2,099	2.7	1,974	2.7	1,932	2.6	2,013	2.3
SUBTOTAL (1-10)	73,599	94.1	67,815	93.8	67,986	92.7	81,004	91.7
Others	4,624	5.9	4,450	6.2	5,352	7.3	7,375	8.3
GRAND TOTAL	78,223		72,265		73,338		88,379	

In 2015, imports of freshwater species into the EU accounted for 82.1% of the total value of imports for the year, with the remaining 17.9% attributed to the import of marines.

Table 2 shows the top 10 importers of freshwater fish into the EU and **Table 3** lists the top 10 importers for marine species for 2015.

Table 2. Top 10 freshwater fish importers (2015)

Country	€ (000s)	% of total freshwater imports
U.K.	17,335	27.0
Germany	12,298	19.1
Netherlands	8,486	13.2
France	5,428	8.5
Spain	3,976	6.2
SUBTOTAL (1-5)	47,523	74
Italy	3,390	5.3
Belgium/Luxembourg	3,287	5.1
Czech Republic	2,418	3.8
Poland	1,986	3.1
Sweden	1,794	2.8
SUBTOTAL (1-10)	60,398	94
Others	3,837	6.0
GRAND TOTAL	64,235	

Table 3. Top 10 marine fish importers (2015)

Country	€ (000s)	% of total marine imports
U.K.	4,385	31.3
Germany	2,409	17.2
Netherlands	2,166	15.5
Italy	1,589	11.4
France	1,384	9.9
SUBTOTAL (1-5)	11,933	85.3
Spain	364	2.6
Sweden	305	2.2
Poland	294	2.1
Denmark	264	1.9
Belgium/Luxembourg	160	1.1
SUBTOTAL (1-10)	13,320	95.2
Others	668	4.8
GRAND TOTAL	13,988	

Source Countries

In 2015, EU member states imported ornamental fish from 61 non-EU countries¹ and territories around the world. Of these, 23 exported both freshwater and marine species; 15 exported freshwater species only and the remaining 23 exported marine species only. These countries are listed in **Appendix 1**.

Unsurprisingly, the top source of ornamental fish into the EU continues to be Singapore. Over 70% by value of all fish entering the EU originates from just 5 countries. The top 10 non-EU countries of origin for marine and freshwater fish combined, remain the same as in 2014.

Table 4 lists the Top 20 non-EU sources of ornamental fish in 2015 (freshwater and marine species combined).

Table 4. Top 20 Non-EU sources of all types of ornamental fish imported into the EU (2015)

Source Country	Value (€ 000s)	% of Total EU Imports
Singapore	17,654	22.6
Israel	11,194	14.3
Indonesia	10,811	13.8
Japan	9,376	12.0
Thailand	5,207	6.7
SUBTOTAL 1-5	54,242	69.3
Sri Lanka	4,351	5.6
USA	2,745	3.5
Colombia	2,163	2.8
Vietnam	1,879	2.4
China	1,630	2.1
SUBTOTAL 1-10	67,010	85.7
Philippines	1,548	2.0
Brazil	1,440	1.8
Malaysia	1,133	1.4
Peru	1,039	1.3
Kenya	829	1.1
SUBTOTAL 1-15	72,999	93.3
Hong Kong	684	0.9
Maldives	670	0.9
Switzerland	445	0.6
Taiwan	380	0.5
Australia	348	0.4
SUBTOTAL 1-20	75,526	96.6
Total from remaining 41 countries	2,697	3.4
GRAND TOTAL	78,223	

¹ This number includes Christmas Island, French Polynesia, Hong Kong, New Caledonia and Taiwan that do not have official country/ republic status.

In 2015, imports of marine ornamental fish arrived into the EU from 46 different countries, whereas freshwater fish were supplied by 38 different countries. **Table 5** lists the top 10 sources of freshwater ornamental fish, which remain the same as in previous years, except Brazil is now the 10th largest exporter of freshwater ornamental fish to the EU, instead of Malaysia in 2013 and 14. Total value of imports of freshwater fish in 2015 has increased by 7.3% compared to 2014. **Figure 2** shows trends in value of imports of freshwater fish into the EU between 2010 and 2015. A list of all countries exporting freshwater fish to the EU in 2015 is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Table 5. Top 10 non-EU sources of freshwater ornamental fish imported to the EU in 2015

Country	Value (€ 000s)	% of Total EU Imports
Singapore	17,450	27.2
Israel	10,955	17.1
Japan	9,345	14.5
Indonesia	5,254	8.2
Thailand	5,176	8.1
SUBTOTAL 1-5	48,180	75.0
Sri Lanka	3,267	5.1
Colombia	2,162	3.4
Vietnam	1,802	2.8
China	1,628	2.5
Brazil	1,396	2.2
SUBTOTAL 1-10	58,435	91.0
Total from remaining 28 countries	5,800	9.0
GRAND TOTAL	64,235	

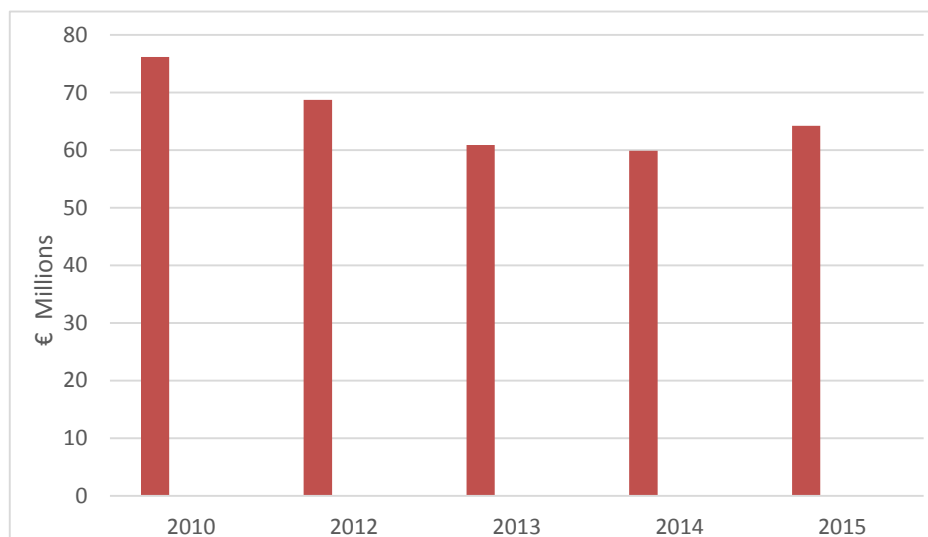


Figure 2. Value of freshwater ornamental fish imports into the EU between 2010 and 2015

Table 6 lists the top 10 sources of marine ornamental fish, which mostly remain the same as in 2014, although Vanuatu has been replaced by Singapore in the 10th position (note that most of Singapore's trade in ornamental fish are likely to be re-exports). The value of marine imports has remained fairly constant since 2010, with an increase in 2015 of 13% relative to the previous year. **Figure 3** shows trends in value of imports of marine ornamentals into the EU between 2010 and 2015. A list of all countries exporting marine ornamental fish to the EU in 2015 is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Table 6. Top 10 non-EU sources of marine ornamental fish imported to the EU in 2015

Country	Value (€ 000s)	% of Total EU Imports
Indonesia	5,557	39.7
U.S.A.	2,064	14.8
Philippines	1,499	10.7
Sri Lanka	1,084	7.7
Kenya	823	5.9
SUBTOTAL 1-5	11,027	78.8
Maldives	670	4.8
Australia	348	2.5
Fiji	274	2.0
Israel	239	1.7
Singapore	204	1.5
SUBTOTAL 1-10	12,762	91.2
Total from remaining 36 countries	1,226	8.8
GRAND TOTAL	13,988	

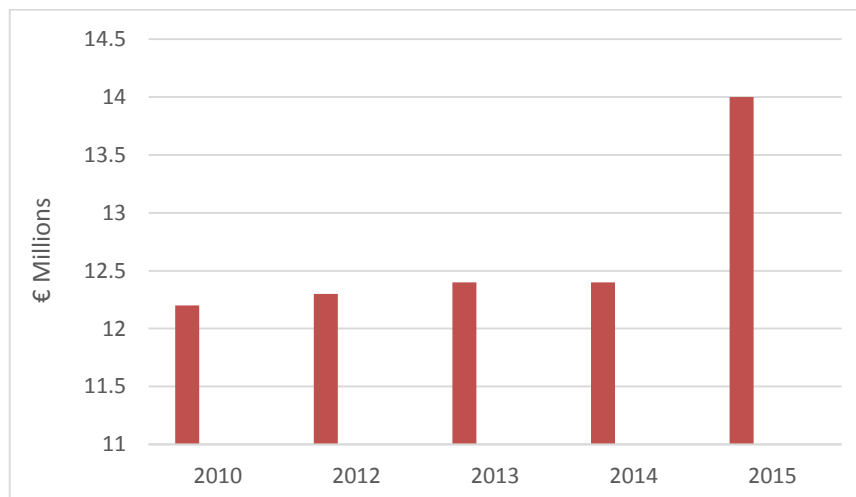


Figure 3. Value of marine ornamental fish imports into the EU between 2010 and 2015

Trade between EU member states

Trade between member states is mostly fish that are imported and then re-exported, though ornamental fish are produced by some member states, in particular the Czech Republic. Fish imports and exports between EU member states are not required to pass through border inspection posts (BIPs) and data on trade value is collected by EU VAT submissions and can be incomplete. Therefore, figures referring to trade between EU member states should be viewed as indicative only.

In 2015, there were only 9 member states that didn't appear to export any ornamental fish: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Malta, Romania and Slovenia. The largest exporter continues to be Spain, followed by the Czech Republic and the Netherlands

Table 7 summarises data for the top 10 exporters in the EU in 2015.

Table 7. Top 10 exporters in the EU (2015)

Country	Freshwater fish exports (€ 000s)	Marine fish exports (€ 000s)	Total value of exports (€ 000s)	% of Total value of EU exports
Spain	949	31,643 ²	32,592	41.6
Czech Republic	19,383	14	19,397	24.8
Netherlands	3,619	6,664	10,283	13.1
Germany	3,503	580	4,083	5.2
U.K.	1,489	882	2,371	3.0
France	517	1,625	2,142	2.7
Sweden	1,361	324	1,685	2.2
Belgium/Luxembourg	1,528	151	1,679	2.1
Portugal	306	875	1,181	1.5
Italy	761	302	1,063	1.4
SUBTOTAL 1-10	33,416	43,060	76,476	97.6
Total from remaining 8 countries	1,450	393	1,843	2.4
GRAND TOTAL	34,866	43,453	78,319	

² This figure is a continuing anomaly which we are not convinced is correct and for which we have no explanation.

Appendix 1: Countries and Territories exporting ornamental fish to the EU by type of fish (2015)

Country	Freshwater	Marine
Australia		✓
Belize		✓
Brazil	✓	✓
Burundi	✓	
Canada	✓	✓
China	✓	✓
Christmas Islands		✓
Colombia	✓	✓
Congo Dem. Rep. (Zaire)	✓	✓
Congo Republic	✓	
Costa Rica	✓	
Cuba		✓
Dominican Republic	✓	✓
Ecuador		✓
Egypt		✓
Fiji	✓	✓
French Polynesia		✓
Ghana		✓
Guinea	✓	
Hong Kong	✓	
Iceland	✓	
India	✓	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓
Israel	✓	✓
Japan	✓	✓
Kenya	✓	✓
Kiribati		✓
Madagascar	✓	✓
Malawi	✓	
Malaysia	✓	✓
Maldives		✓
Marshall Islands		✓
Mauritius		✓
New Caledonia		✓
Nicaragua		✓
Niger	✓	
Nigeria	✓	✓
Norway	✓	
Palau		✓
Paraguay	✓	
Peru	✓	
Philippines	✓	✓
Sao-Tome Principe		✓
Singapore	✓	✓
Solomon Islands		✓
South Africa	✓	✓

Country	Freshwater	Marine
Sri Lanka	✓	✓
Sudan		✓
Surinam		✓
Switzerland	✓	
Taiwan	✓	✓
Tanzania	✓	
Thailand	✓	✓
Tonga		✓
Trinidad and Tobago	✓	
Turkey		✓
USA	✓	✓
United Arab Emirates		✓
Vanuatu		✓
Vietnam	✓	✓
Zambia	✓	