

UK export trade and markets for selected shellfish species

This note provides a summary of UK export trade for selected shellfish species. It describes trade volume and value, the main market destinations and trends over time.

This summary focusses on a number of specific species (scallops, Nephrops, brown crab, and blue mussels), and product formats (live, chilled, and frozen). According to UK export trade data¹, in 2017:

- The UK export volume and value of these shellfish species was 84,618 tonnes (liveweight) and £299m. By value, the most significant species exported was Nephrops (25,624t, £120m), scallops (29,507t, £103m), brown crab (18,332t, £72m), and blue mussels (11,155t, £4m).
- The main export destinations for these species were other EU member states (76,071t and £266m); see figures 1.1 and 1.2. Within the EU, the main markets for scallops, Nephrops, brown crab were France, Spain and Italy, whilst the Netherlands was an important market for blue mussels. Important non-EU markets are China (and Hong Kong), particularly for brown crab (4,063t, £18m) and Nephrops (1,324t, £4m).

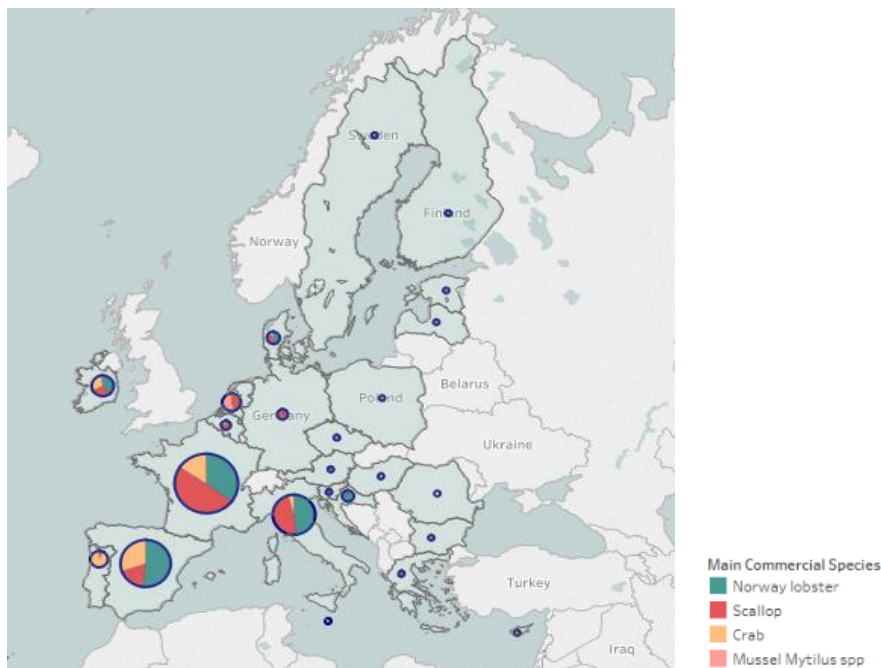


Figure 1.1 Value of selected UK shellfish species exported to the EU, 2017

¹ See Appendix 1

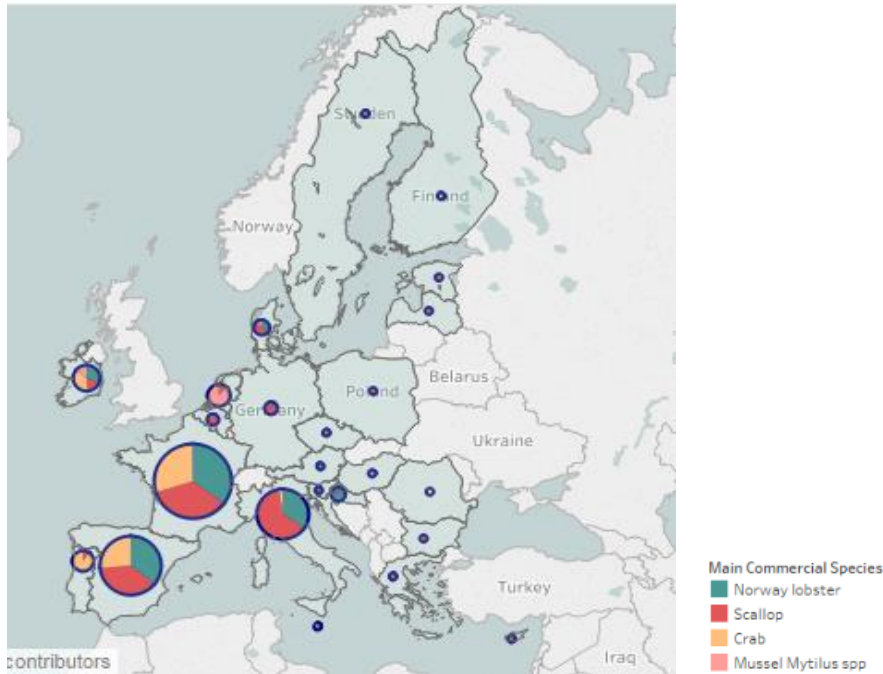


Figure 1.2 Volume of selected UK shellfish species exported to the EU, 2017

- These species are exported from the UK to the EU in a range of product formats: live/fresh, frozen, prepared and preserved, or smoked. All of these species are, to some degree, exported live/fresh. However, live/fresh exports is a relatively low share of Nephrops and scallop export volume (the majority of this volume is frozen), and a relatively high share of brown crab and blue mussels export volume.
- Over the longer term (from 2010-2017) it is notable that:
 - Total UK exports of these species has fallen 31% by volume and increased in value by 15%. The exception to this trend is brown crab which has seen an 12% increase in export volume and 58% increase in value.
 - UK exports of these species by volume to the EU have decreased by 35% but increased to non-EU markets by 56%. The same exports by value to the EU have increased by 8% but to non-EU markets by 146%. Much of this improvement in non-EU markets trade has been from a small base and much has been driven by increased brown crab exports particularly to China.

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Appendix 1 UK exports of selected shellfish species (Source: British Trade Statistics, 2017)

Note: These trade data may not fully reflect actual trade, some vessel landings to non-UK ports may not appear in trade datasets leading to some discrepancies.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change 2010-2017
Crab	16,382	16,554	16,373	16,401	17,990	16,402	20,240	18,332	12%
Mussel Mytilus spp	17,477	24,043	21,011	13,485	9,913	7,056	4,637	11,155	-36%
Norway lobster	31,078	26,512	23,247	19,561	20,992	18,704	19,795	25,624	-18%
Scallop	57,209	62,917	63,877	50,245	41,880	51,162	59,856	29,507	-48%
Grand Total	122,146	130,026	124,507	99,692	90,775	93,324	104,529	84,618	-32%

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change 2010-2017
Crab	46	47	46	51	57	48	66	72	58%
Mussel Mytilus spp	7	9	11	9	5	4	3	4	-38%
Norway lobster	120	125	107	96	107	93	113	120	0%
Scallop	88	95	91	96	93	101	128	103	17%
Grand Total	260	277	255	251	261	246	310	299	14%

Table A1.3 Total UK exports of selected shellfish species to EU and non-EU destinations by volume (liveweight tonnes)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change 2010-2017
Crab	16,382	16,554	16,373	16,401	17,990	16,402	20,240	18,332	12%
EU	15,810	15,415	14,756	14,539	15,282	15,043	15,560	13,856	-12%
non EU	573	1,139	1,617	1,862	2,709	1,359	4,680	4,476	682%
Mussel Mytilus spp	17,477	24,043	21,011	13,485	9,913	7,056	4,637	11,155	-36%
EU	17,436	23,999	20,950	13,471	9,861	6,991	4,612	11,150	-36%
non EU	41	44	61	14	53	65	26	5	-89%
Norway lobster	31,078	26,512	23,247	19,561	20,992	18,704	19,795	25,624	-18%
EU	26,398	23,234	19,285	17,178	19,275	17,080	17,804	21,662	-18%
non EU	4,679	3,278	3,962	2,383	1,717	1,624	1,991	3,962	-15%
Scallop	57,209	62,917	63,877	50,245	41,880	51,162	59,856	29,507	-48%
EU	57,033	62,734	63,625	49,899	41,462	50,976	59,725	29,402	-48%
non EU	176	183	252	346	418	185	131	105	-40%
Grand Total	122,146	130,026	124,507	99,692	90,775	93,324	104,529	84,618	-31%

Table A1.4 Total UK exports of selected shellfish species to EU and non-EU destinations by value (£m)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change 2010-2017
Crab	46	47	46	51	57	48	66	72	58%
EU	44	43	40	44	47	45	53	51	17%
non EU	2	4	6	7	10	4	13	20	1081%
Mussel Mytilus spp	7	9	11	9	5	4	3	4	-38%
EU	7	9	11	9	5	4	3	4	-38%
non EU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-83%
Norway lobster	120	125	107	96	107	93	113	120	0%
EU	108	117	96	88	101	88	106	108	0%
non EU	11	9	10	7	6	5	8	12	5%
Scallop	88	95	91	96	93	101	128	103	17%
EU	87	95	90	95	92	101	128	102	17%
non EU	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	65%
Grand Total	260	277	255	251	261	246	310	299	15%

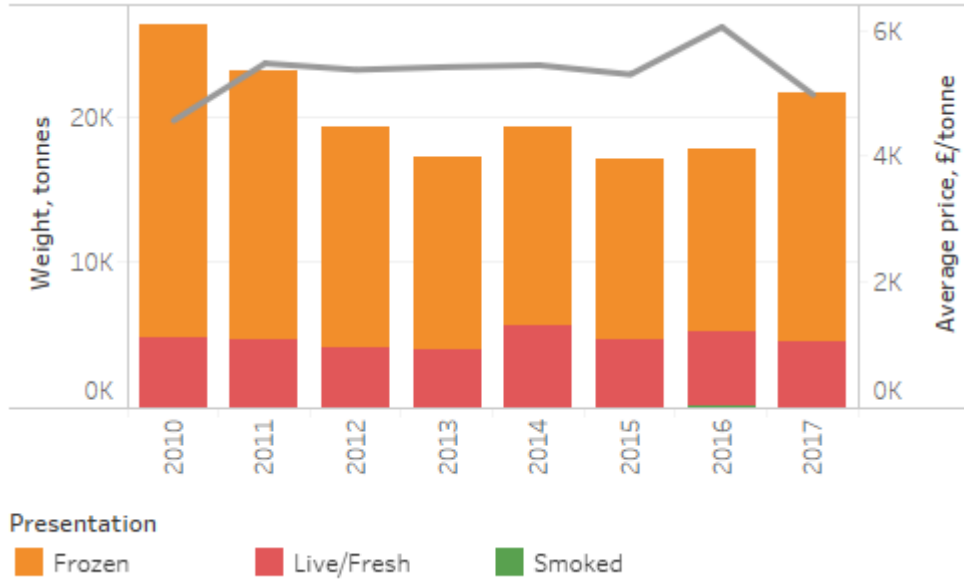


Figure A1.1 UK exports of Norway lobster to EU destinations by product format*

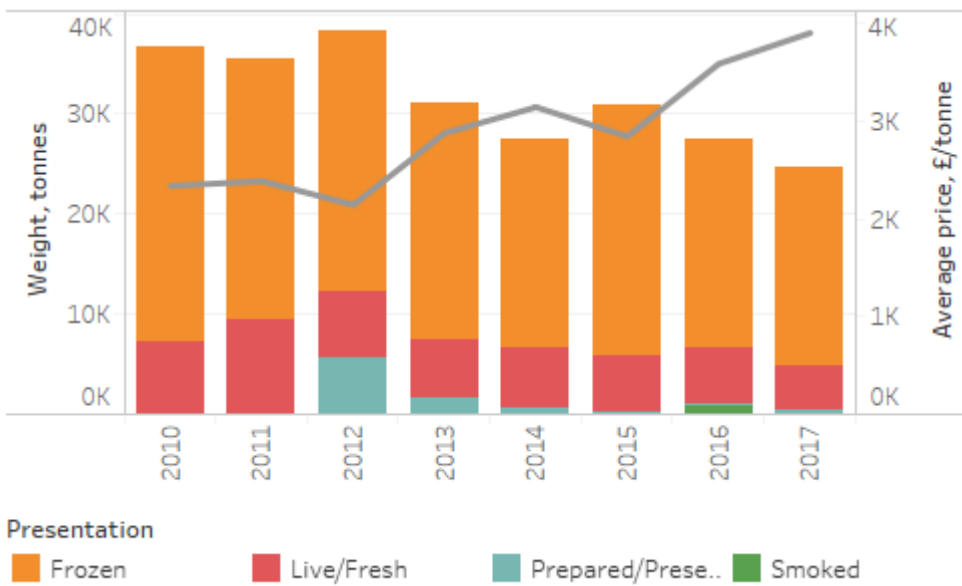


Figure A1.2 UK exports of scallops to EU destinations by product format*

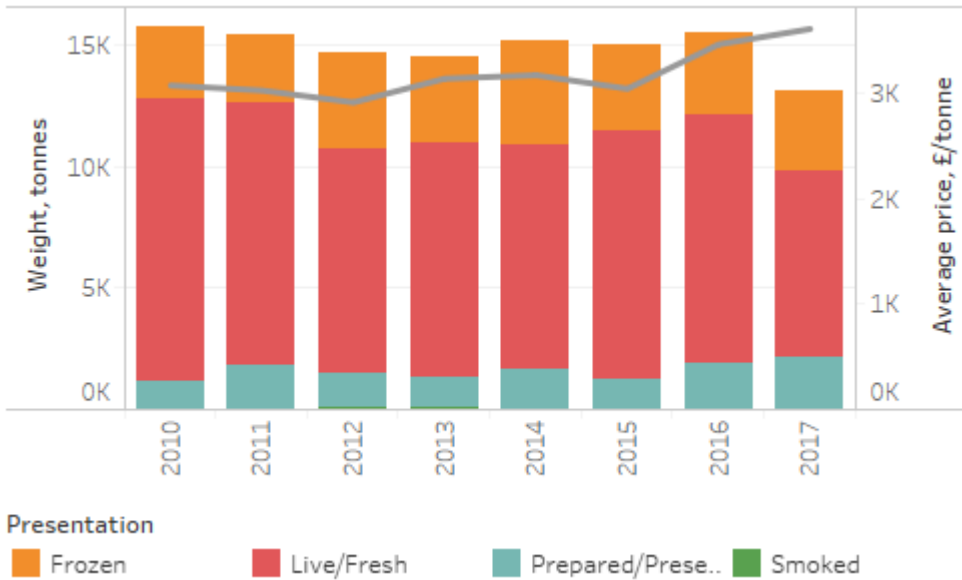


Figure A1.3 UK exports of brown crab to EU destinations by product format*

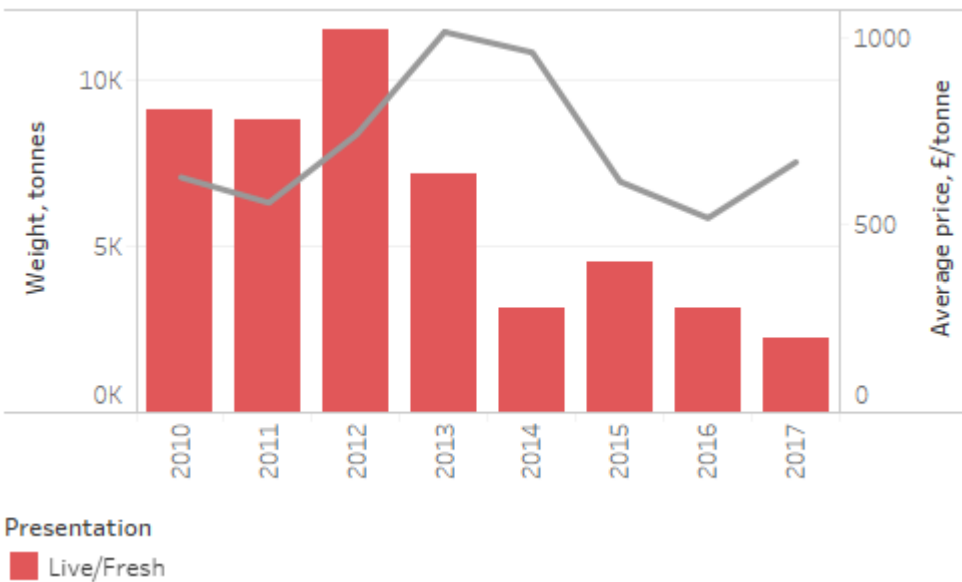


Figure A1.4 UK exports of blue mussels (*Mytilus spp*) to EU destinations by product format*

*All weights are in live weight, all values are in real (rather than nominal) prices