

	Volume (tonnes)	Value (billions of francs)
Domestic production	818 700	8.7
Imports	623 004	12.9
Exports	232 628	4.3
Balance	(390 376)	(8.6)
Apparent consumption	1 290 076	17.3

5.2 Consumption

5.3.1 The French enjoy their fish!

The 56 million people of France consumed 1 209 000 tonnes of fisheries products in 1988. In 1986, estimated per capita consumption was 13.78 kg of fresh fish, crustaceans and molluscs, 3.22 kg of frozen fish and crustaceans, and 3.30 kg of canned fish and crustaceans.

5.3.2 Sales of fresh products

Much of France's production of fish and crustaceans is sold fresh. In the fishing ports, catches are sold at auction at locations known as **criées**. The products are then shipped by truck either to the final buyers (fish markets or processors) or to the Rungis market, where they are sold to retailers.

5.3.3 The processing sector

The most traditional fish-canning industries, turning out products that are represented very simply (sardines, tuna, mackerel fillets), are losing ground. The number of canneries has greatly declined, and the surviving firms are able to keep going only because of their subsidiaries in Morocco or Tunisia.

An increasing range and variety of prepared dishes have become available in recent years. France has not followed the trend in the direction of more frozen products that we have observed in North America; the development of new technologies has given rise to fresh prepared dishes alongside the traditional frozen and canned prepared dishes that were previously available.

The suspicion with which frozen products were regarded a few years ago has largely dissipated. The quality of the products available on the market is, in our view, very high. Increasing numbers of French households are equipped with microwave ovens (1 650 000 units were sold in 1989).