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Current trends in rice trade and rice consumption in the Netherlands

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Abstract. This paper reviews some current trends in rice trade and consumption in the Netherlands. Because a large proportion of the rice imported in the Netherlands is re-exported, the rice trade is an interesting element of its economy. Special attention is paid to its rice trade with other EEC members and particularly with three rice producing countries: France, Italy and Spain.

I – Developments in income and expenditure

Between 1980 and 1990 real net income of Dutch households decreased, but income per household member increased because of decreasing household size (*Table 1*). The proportion of net income spent on food decreased from 21% to 18.5% in this period.

Table 1. Developments in income and consumption (,000 DFL)

	1980	1990	% change
Per household			
net income	37.9	45.8	+ 21%
idem in '80 prices	37.9	35.8	- 6%
expenditure	33.8	40.1	+ 19%
idem in '80 prices	33.8	31.3	- 7%
household size	2.9	2.5	
Per person			
net income	13.1	18.3	+ 40%
idem in '80 prices	13.1	14.3	+ 9%
consumption (use)	11.6	16.0	+ 38%
idem in '80 prices	11.6	12.5	+ 8%

Source: Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, Budget survey 1980-1990.

In the budget surveys of the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, rice is part of the food category of "Flours and groceries" consisting of flour of both cereals and potatoes, rice, vermicelli and dough products. The category of flours and groceries represented about 0.2% of total household expenditure in the period 1980–1990. Flours and groceries maintained this share as a proportion of total household expenditure, whereas the share the total food category decreased.

II – Rice imports and exports

In the recent past, the value of exported rice represented more than 75% of the value of imported rice. Exported rice was, of course, more expensive than imported rice because of the value added by processing, storage and transport (*Tables 2 and 3*).

Table 2. Value of rice imports and exports in the Netherlands (,000,000 DFL)

	1990	1991	1992
Value of rice imports	173	173	179
Value of rice exports	144	146	135
Exports as proportion of imports	0.83	0.84	0.75

Source: Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, Budget survey 1980–1990.

It is shown in *Table 3* that between 1980 and 1992, usually, the majority of rice imported into the Netherlands originated from outside the EEC. This regarded about two third of the quantity of rice that was imported. From the rice exported from the Netherlands to other countries more than 70% was exported to member countries of the EEC during these years.

Table 3. Rice trade in the Netherlands, imports and exports (,000,000 kg)

Year	Imports		Exports		Exports/Imports All
	All	% EEC	All	% EEC	
1980	193.07	12.3	123.70	87.4	0.64
1982	160.19	24.7	122.57	89.6	0.77
1984	166.53	46.7	98.82	83.4	0.58
1986	167.65	53.4	77.12	77.6	0.46
1988	176.73	23.5	81.56	79.2	0.46
1990	186.91	30.8	84.06	77.9	0.45
1991	180.63	30.7	85.49	73.7	0.47
1992	180.52	35.4	84.19	71.5	0.47

Source : Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, Yearly statistics of foreign trade.

The results of *Table 4*, in which all types of rice were converted into milled rice equivalents, do not differ much from those of *Table 3*. The level imported milled rice equivalents remained rather constant between 1980 and 1992, but the proportion imported from EEC countries varied considerably and tended to stabilize at about one third. The level of exported milled rice equivalents decreased, indication that a larger proportion of imported rice was consumed within the country. Also the proportion of exports to EEC countries tended to decrease, but its level was still high: more than two third of the exported volume was exported to EEC member countries.

Table 4. Rice trade in the Netherlands, imports and exports (,000,00 kg) in milled rice equivalents

Year	All	Imports		All	Exports	
		EEC	%		EEC	%
1980	177.73	23.10	13.0	115.27	99.69	86.5
1982	148.61	37.78	25.4	115.40	102.61	88.9
1984	156.34	72.43	46.3	96.67	80.26	83.0
1986	156.27	83.37	53.3	76.54	59.25	77.4
1988	163.34	39.43	24.1	80.06	63.09	78.8
1990	172.61	53.94	31.2	83.36	64.80	77.7
1991	168.48	52.72	31.3	84.75	62.35	73.6
1992	169.49	61.36	36.2	83.41	56.77	68.1

Source: Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, Yearly statistics of foreign trade.

National «use» was measured by subtracting the quantity of rice exported from the quantity imported (*Table 5*). Use includes changes in stocks of rice which are not reported in the statistics. Use (Imp - Exp) as a proportion of the quantity of imported rice increased considerably between 1980 and 1992, from about one third to about 50% indicating the increasing importance of national use through an increase in the size of the population and an increase in the use per inhabitant.

Table 5. Imports minus exports and use of rice in the Netherlands milled rice equivalents

Year	Imp - Exp (x 10 ⁶ kg)	% of imp.	Population (x 10 ⁶)	«Use» (kg)
1980	62.46	35.1	14.1	4.4
1982	33.21	22.3	14.3	2.3
1984	59.67	38.2	14.4	4.1
1986	79.73	51.0	14.5	5.5
1988	83.28	51.0	14.7	5.7
1990	89.25	51.7	14.9	6.0
1992	86.08	50.8	15.0	5.7

Rice imports and exports for different types of rice grain (round grain, long grain, broken rice) and different stages of processing (paddy or husk rice, unmilled rice, undermilled rice, milled rice) are published in the Year statistics of foreign trade, Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics. The classifications are derived from the Standard International Trade Classifications. Imports of rice into the Netherlands and exports of rice from the Netherlands regard mainly rice with long grains (*Table 6*).

Table 6. Total rice import and export (10⁶ kg, in milled rice equivalents), 1990–1992

Type	Round	Import Long	Broken	Round	Export Long	Broken
Year 1990						
Total	4.95	143.13	24.53	0.52	77.10	5.74
-EEC	4.91	40.69	8.34	0.47	58.63	5.70
Year 1991						
Total	6.32	130.70	31.46	0.68	78.83	5.24
- EEC	6.30	39.13	8.29	0.64	54.53	5.21
Year 1992						
Total	5.03	139.25	25.21	0.59	78.66	4.16
- EEC	5.02	49.2	6.43	0.59	54.77	4.11

The total quantity of rice imported from France, Italy and Spain was rather stable in the period 1990–1992, but the origin varied considerably (*Table 7*). The majority of rice imported from these countries was rice with long grains.

Table 7. Rice imports from France, Italy and Spain into The Netherlands 1990–1992 (10⁶ kg, in milled rice equivalents)

Type	Round	Long	Broken
Year 1990			
France	1.789	8.451	0.814
Italy	2.905	0.671	0.829
Spain	0.138	12.249	
Total	4.832	21.371	1.643
Year 1991			
France	0.657	1.883	1.002
Italy	4.751	14.679	1.804
Spain	0.102	12.007	
Total	5.510	28.569	2.806
Year 1992			
France		0.586	0.341
Italy	3.854	13.181	1.124
Spain	0.617	15.530	
Total	4.471	29.297	1.465