



NETHERLANDS
Europe Region

COUNTRY STATS

POPULATION (2023):

17.6 million

POPULATION (2050):

18 million

GDP (2023):

\$1 trillion

PER CAPITA INCOME (2023):

USD \$61,100

MARKET SNAPSHOT:

NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands is the 15th-largest economy in the world but the 2nd-largest exporter of agricultural products, reflecting a highly efficient and organized system of food production, processing, trading and infrastructure. Rotterdam is the largest port in Europe and the largest outside of Asia. Economic growth was a meager 0.6% in 2023 but is expected to be slightly higher at 1.1% in 2024.

The market has seen a decline from consistent U.S. Soy volume in recent years. Strong pressure from environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and some political parties aim to reduce overall livestock numbers for environmental reasons.

U.S. Soy has collaborated in the Netherlands since the 1970s.

MARKET STATS

Soy Usage 2023 (est. growth by 2035/40)

Poultry	483,439 MT (46.1%)
Dairy	223,086 MT (21.3%)
Beef	122,230 MT (11.7%)
Pork	109,627 MT (10.4%)
Eggs	108,070 MT (10.3%)

MT=metric tons

Netherlands Soy Basics	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Soybean Imports, 1000 t (Oct-Sept)	3,804	3,678	4,239	3,800	3,580	3,293
Soybean as % of Total Oilseed Imports	77%	74%	74%	71%	76%	71%
Soybean Crush, 1000 t (Oct-Sept)	3,225	3,214	3,298	3,370	3,090	3,100
Soymeal Imports, 1000 t CY	4,158	3,637	3,702	3,543	3,584	1,558
Soymeal Consumption, 1000 t (CY)	4,035	3,796	3,782	3,537	3,493	135
Soy oil Imports, 1000 t(CY)	88	130	119	104	88	N/A
Soy oil Consumption, 1000 t(CY)	150	163	166	165	155	N/A

t=ton, CY=calendar year

STRENGTHS

- The high quality of U.S. Soy is well known to importers and feed manufacturers. The U.S. is viewed as a reliable supplier.
- The U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (SSAP) and U.S. Soy producers' sustainable practices create a positive advantage.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Considered as low risk to deforestation the U.S. is well positioned versus South American competitors.
- Demand for food-quality soybeans will increase as consumption patterns switch to less meat and more plant proteins.
- Niche markets exist for non-GM food-quality beans for direct human consumption.

CHALLENGES

- Importers purchase Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS) credits to cover the quantity of soy imports. This will gradually change as the industry moves toward mass balance and certified sustainable soy vs. credits.
- European Union (EU) tolerance for genetically-modified (GM) material in non-GM beans is too low, creating higher risk for U.S. exporters.
- EU deforestation legislation, poised to come into force in January 2025, poses a challenge to U.S. Soy exports.
- There is a strong pressure from some politicians and environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to reduce the overall number of livestock will likely reduce feed demand.
- Strong preference for local protein production and a desire to reduce all soy imports.

Sources:

- USDA FAS GATS
- International Monetary Fund
- Oil World
- IDH Soy Monitoring Report 2021
- Statista

