



U.S. SHRIMP INDUSTRY

Fact Sheet

Shrimp is the most consumed seafood in the United States.

- Americans consume between 5 and 6 pounds of shrimp per capita.

Over the past decade, India has emerged as the United States' leading source of shrimp.

- Indian shrimp account for more than 2 out of every 5 pounds of shrimp imports
- Total volume of U.S. shrimp imports in 2023 by country:
 - India (40.8%)
 - Ecuador (27.8%)
 - Indonesia (16.9%)
 - Vietnam (6.6%)
 - All others combined (7.9%)
- U.S. shrimpers produce less than 10% of shrimp sold in the United States.
- In 2022, India's shrimp exports to the world were valued at \$5.5 billion.
- Prior to 2009, India was a minor player in the global shrimp industry, the seventh largest producer for the U.S. market – far behind Thailand, Ecuador, China, Indonesia, and other countries.
- Policy changes in 2009 opened up imports of broodstock into India for a new species, *L. vannamei* (whiteleg shrimp), one of the most-consumed shrimp species in the United States.



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The rapid expansion of India's shrimp industry is a result of its significant capacity to supply labor-intensive, hand-peeled shrimp at a low cost.

- In 2023, while Indian shrimp constituted 40.8% of U.S. shrimp imports overall, India's share of total imports of peeled shrimp were even higher, at 56.4%.
- In 2009, India accounted for only 3.9% of the total volume of peeled shrimp imports, and Thailand was the largest supplier to the United States with a 33.4% share.
- By 2013, India had nearly quintupled its share to 21.4% and surpassed Thailand as the largest exporter of shrimp to the United States.
- In 2015, the Thai shrimp industry faced two existential challenges: shrimp disease, especially Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS), and repeated allegations of forced labor. As the Thai industry addressed human rights violations – increasing costs in the process – U.S. companies quickly looked elsewhere for cheap shrimp, often choosing India.
- By 2017, India accounted for 46% of all peeled shrimp imports into the United States.
- Last year, the United States imported over 463 million pounds of peeled shrimp from India worth roughly \$1.6 billion.
 - In 2023, the volume of imported peeled shrimp to the U.S. fell by 3% compared to 2022 for all countries except India, which increased by 4%.
 - In the same time period, the per pound value of the peeled shrimp from India fell by 15%, from \$3.97 in 2022 to \$3.36 in 2023.
 - In January 2024, the per pound value for Indian peeled shrimp had fallen even further to \$3.21 (compared to \$3.58 in January 2023).



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Indian companies are heavily dependent on the U.S. market for shrimp.

- Much of the shrimp produced in India is exported to the United States, with the rest sent to the European Union, Japan, and other markets.
- In 2022, 40% of the volume and 45% of the value of India's shrimp exports were directed to the United States, making this country India's largest market by far.
- Some Indian companies produce primarily for the U.S. market. For example, Nekkanti Sea Foods executives reported that 90% of their shrimp were sold to the U.S. market in 2022.
- Very little of the shrimp farmed and produced in India is consumed in India – despite India being the most populous country in the world.
 - The Indian Government supports the export of shrimp through subsidies. The U.S. Department of Commerce has previously found that the Indian government provided significant subsidies to the Indian shrimp industry, valued at 10.84% of the export sales value of Indian shrimp to the United States.
- Other markets are less open to Indian shrimp than the United States. For example, while the European Union samples 50% of shrimp from India for traces of banned antibiotic, the United States tests 0.1%.