

Seafood Facts for Canada and the United States

For companies that buy and sell seafood, ensuring the long-term viability of the seafood supply is essential. Across Canada and the United States, seafood is big business. It is an economic engine for coastal communities and a top seller at restaurants and grocery stores. And in recent years, seafood has been making even more frequent appearances on dinner plates as people learn about its health benefits.

In Canada:

- The average Canadian ate 50 lbs (23.1 kg) of fish in 2005. (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)
- Canada has one of the world's most valuable commercial fishing trades, worth more than C\$5 billion a year and providing more than 130,000 jobs to Canadians. (Agriculture Canada)
- Aquaculture is also becoming an important industry in Canada. Farmed fish and seafood production was valued at C\$715 million in 2005, comprising approximately 25 percent of all Canadian fisheries and aquaculture. (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)
- Seafood is the single largest food commodity exported by Canada. Nearly half of Canada's seafood exports by volume are destined for the United States market. (Agriculture Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada)
- More than two-thirds of seafood consumed in Canada is sold by retailers, with sales totaling more than C\$2 billion each year. Canadian restaurants and other food service businesses account for the remainder of seafood sold – approximately 30 percent. (Food for Thought, Strategic Information Services, Food & Drink Markets, 2007 Edition)

In the United States:

- The average American ate 16.5 lbs (7.5 kg) of seafood in 2006. While U.S. seafood consumption is substantially less than Canada's, the amount of seafood Americans eat continues to increase. (Howard Johnson's 2006/2007 Annual Report on the United States Seafood Industry)
- U.S. consumers spend almost US\$70 billion a year on fish and fish products, including around US\$46 billion at seafood restaurants alone. (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- U.S. aquaculture production generates over US\$1 billion in sales each year and the U.S. commercial fishing industry contributes more than US\$31 billion to the country's gross domestic product. (U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- The NOAA State of Fisheries 2006 report found that 30 U.S. states have significant fishing industries, including Alaska and Hawaii.
- The United States imports more fish than any other nation except China. More of this imported seafood comes from Canada than from any other country. (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Howard Johnson's 2006/2007 Annual Report on the United States Seafood Industry)