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Canada

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Canada

CANADA'S FISH AND SEAFOOD TRADE IN 2021: OVERVIEW



Economics, Statistics and Data Governance Directorate
Strategic Policy Sector
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

Highlights

- In 2021 export value in the Canadian seafood sector recovered from the disruptions associated with COVID-19.
- Canada's fish and seafood exports were worth **\$8.79B**¹ in 2021, a 36 per cent increase over 2020 and an 18 per cent increase over the previous high in 2019.
- Quantity of exports was **613 thousand tonnes**, a 8 per cent increase from 2020, while average fish and seafood export prices increased 26 per cent over 2020.
- Top destinations were the **United States** (\$6.18B), **China** (\$1.12B), and the **EU² excluding UK** (\$453M), accounting for 88 per cent of Canada's fish and seafood exports by value.

Top Destinations for Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports, 2021

Destination	Value of Exports (\$B)	Change ³ of Values (%)	Change of Volumes (%)	Change of Prices (%)	Share of Exports (%)
USA	6.18	49.9	19.7	25.2	70.3
China	1.12	7.6	-14.6	26.0	12.7
EU (ex UK)	0.45	19.2	2.3	16.5	5.2
Other	1.04	24.5	9.6	13.5	11.8
Total	8.79	36.5	8.3	26.0	100

- Top species exported were **lobster**⁴ (\$3.26B), **crab**⁵ (\$2.18B), and **salmon** (\$1.12B), accounting for 75 per cent of total Canadian fish and seafood export value.

Canada's Top 3 Fish and Seafood Exports by Species, 2021

Species	Value of Exports (\$B)	Change of Values (%)	Change of Volumes (%)	Change of Prices (%)	Share of Exports (%)
Lobster	3.26	55.8	17.1	33.1	37.1
Crab	2.18	64.3	15.5	42.3	24.8
Salmon	1.12	15.0	10.5	4.1	12.7
Other	2.24	9.0	4.2	4.5	25.4
Total	8.79	36.5	8.3	26.0	100

- The main exporting provinces were **Nova Scotia** (\$2.48B), **New Brunswick** (\$2.21B), and **Newfoundland and Labrador** (\$1.42B), accounting for 70 per cent of Canada's fish and seafood export value.
- Value of Canada's fish and seafood imports was \$4.61B, a 16 per cent increase over the previous year.
- Top suppliers of fish and seafood to Canada were the **United States** (\$1.67B), **China** (\$520M), and **Vietnam** (\$314M), accounting for 54 per cent of Canada's total fish and seafood import value.
- The top three species imported were **salmon** (\$925M), **shrimp and prawns** (\$720M), and **lobster** (\$550M), accounting for 48 per cent Canada's fish and seafood imports by value.

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, trade statistics are sourced from Statistics Canada, and were accessed through: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed: July 13, 2022. No endorsement of this product by Statistics Canada is implied.

² EU data, including historical data in this report, reflect the current membership of the post-Brexit European Union.

³ The term "change" indicates yearly change from the previous year, unless otherwise specified.

⁴ Lobster refers to the *Homarus* species.

⁵ Unless otherwise specified, Canadian exports of crab refer to snow crab, Dungeness crab and unspecified crab species. Based on exporting provinces and Canadian crab species landings data, Canadian exports of crab consist principally of snow crab.



Acronyms and Notes

CETA	Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
MMPA	<i>Marine Mammal Protection Act</i> of the United States
TCA	Canada-United Kingdom Trade Continuity Agreement
UKGT	United Kingdom's Global Tariff
UK	United Kingdom
EU (exUK)	European Union (post-Brexit)
EU	
US	United States of America

- 1) Unless otherwise indicated, trade statistics are sourced from Statistics Canada and were accessed through: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed: July 13, 2022. No endorsement of this product by Statistics Canada is implied.
- 2) When sources other than Statistics Canada are indicated, note that export statistics reported by one country are often not the same as the import statistics reported by its trade partner. Import statistics often include additional shipping costs, and countries may apply different rules in the accounting of international trade.
- 3) Values are nominal not accounting for inflation.
- 4) Throughout this report's tables, the term "change" indicates yearly change from the previous year, unless otherwise specified.
- 5) Unless otherwise specified, lobster refers to the *Homarus* species.
- 6) Unless otherwise specified, Canadian exports of crab refer to snow crab, Dungeness crab, and unspecified crab species. Based on exporting provinces and Canadian crab species landings data, total Canadian exports of crab consist principally of snow crab.
- 7) The United Kingdom is not included within the statistics or analysis of the European Union in any of the time periods analyzed, or statistics summarized, in this report.



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Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

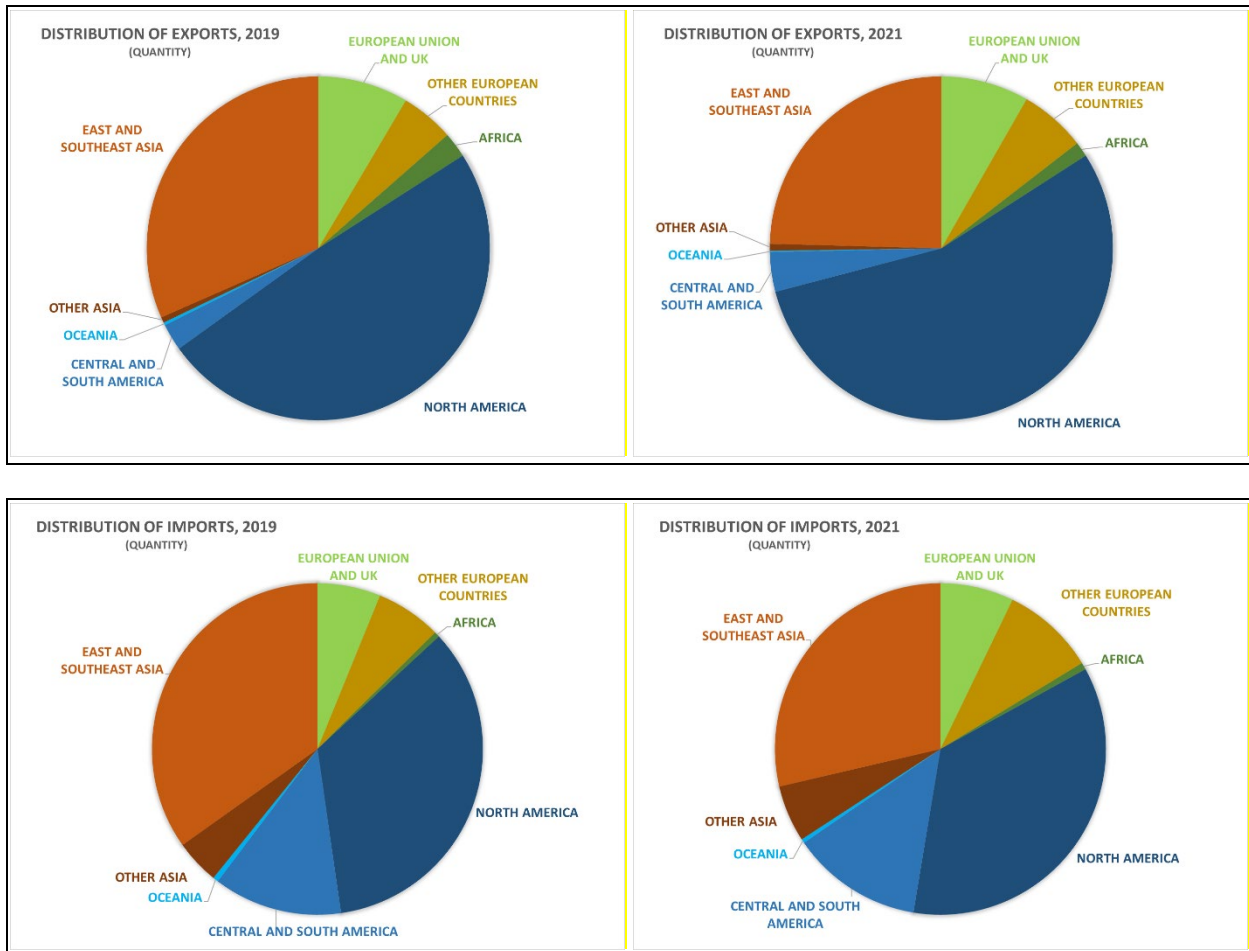
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Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021: Recovery

In 2021 Canada's aggregate seafood trade mostly recovered from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there remain areas of weakness in individual markets.

By mid-2020, COVID-19 had caused sharp falls in traded quantities and values for essentially every major seafood export and import. As the year progressed, the situation improved and in 2021 the recovery was led by booming demand from the United States. In contrast, the quantities traded with Asia - including China, Japan, Hong Kong, and India – recovered only modestly and mostly remained below pre-pandemic levels.



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

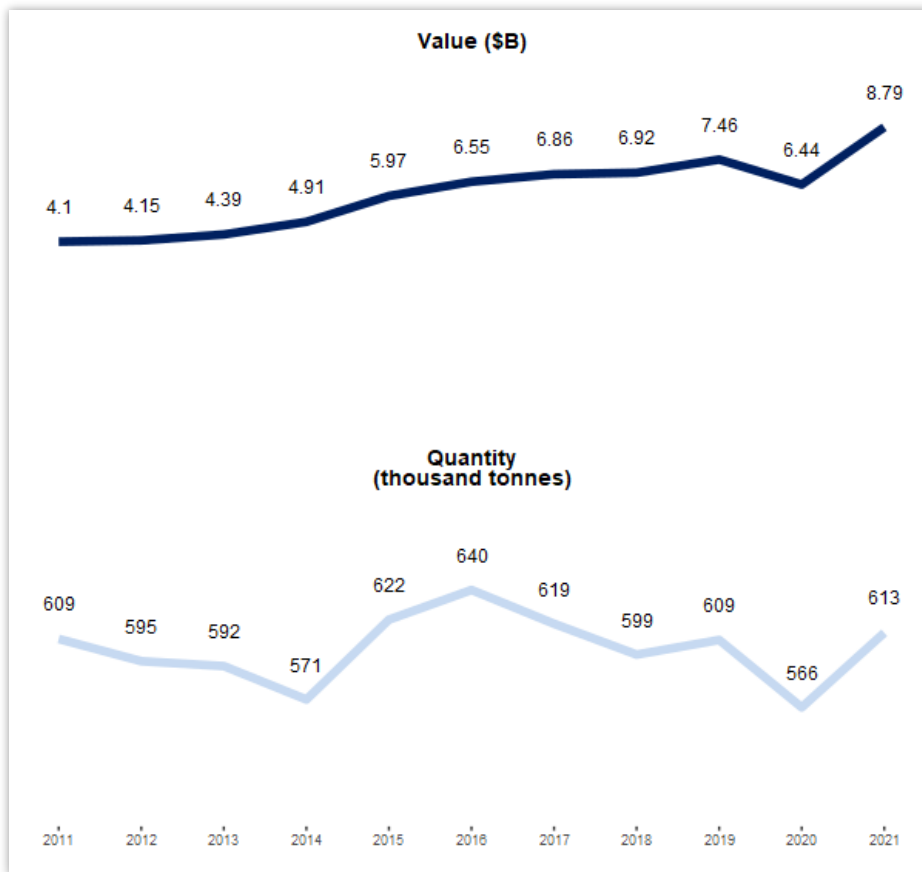
Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Canada's overall traded quantities have returned to pre-pandemic levels, but the pandemic has caused a mild shift towards the already dominant markets in the Americas for both exports and imports. Trade with Europe (EU as well as other countries) has also become a larger share. More details on the major partners and species behind these trends are provided in the following pages.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports

In 2021, Canada's fish and seafood exports were valued at \$8.79B, an increase of 36 per cent (\$2.35B) over 2020. This represents both a recovery from the economic effects of COVID-19 and a continuation of the long-term upward trend in the value of seafood exports. Quantity-wise Canada exported 613 thousand tonnes of fish and seafood in 2021, an 8 per cent increase from the previous year. Overall export prices increased by 26 per cent, due to more favorable exchange rates that increased the value of exports in Canadian dollar terms as well as recovering demand following COVID-19.

Figure 1. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports, 2011-2021



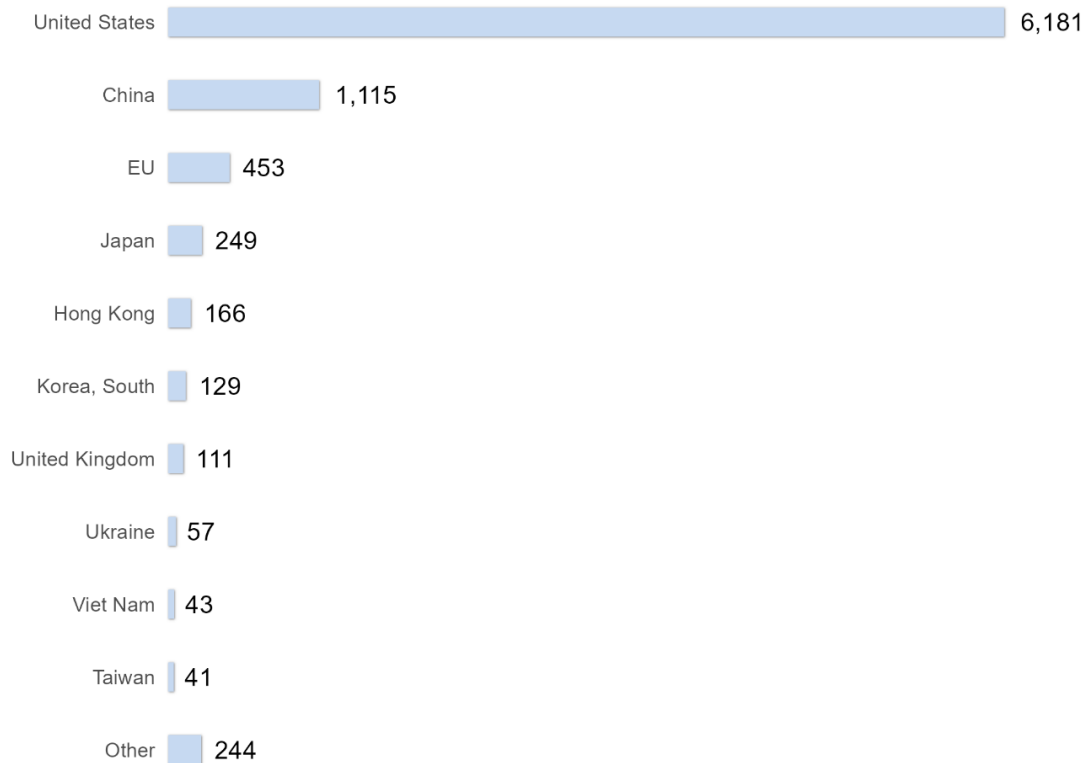
Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Destination

The United States has historically been the most significant destination for Canadian seafood exports, even as the share destined for China has grown rapidly. However, exports to China fell sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic and have yet to recover to the same extent as other markets, while trade with the United States has recovered and strengthened.

Figure 2. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Destination, 2021 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

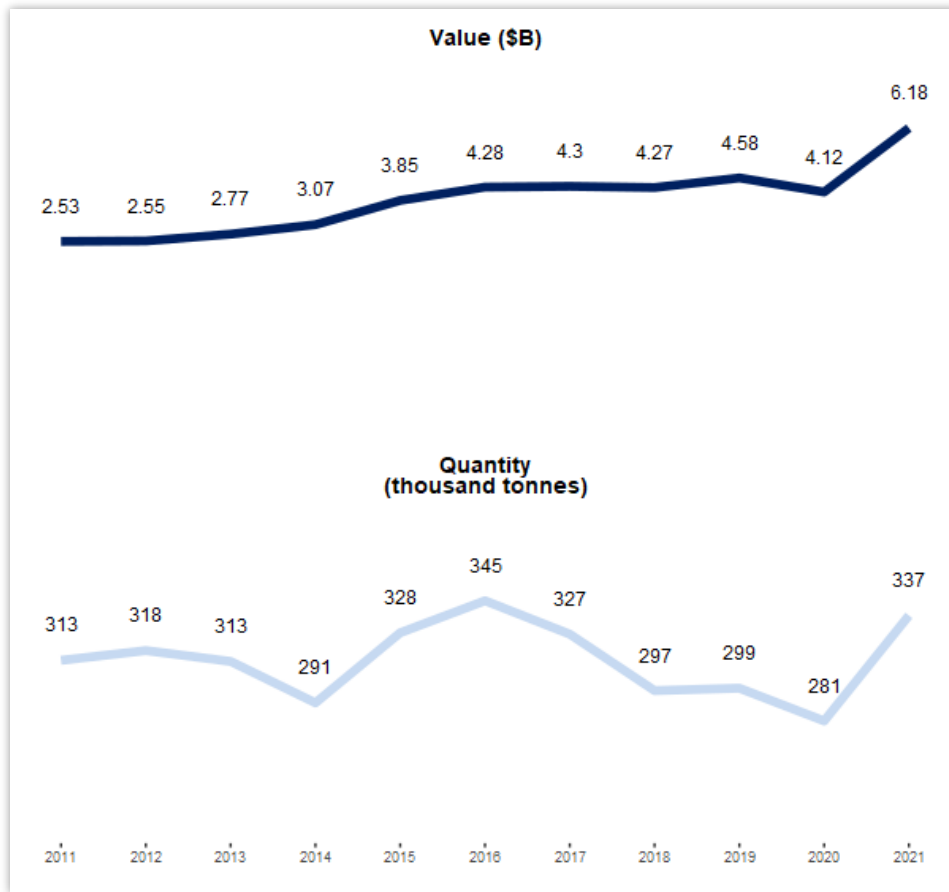
Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

United States

In 2021, 70 per cent of Canadian fish and seafood exports were exported to the United States. The value of seafood exports to the United States increased by 50 per cent in 2021 to \$6.18B. Quantities recovered similarly approaching the most recent high from pre-pandemic years, which occurred in 2016.

Figure 3. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports to the US, 2011-2021



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

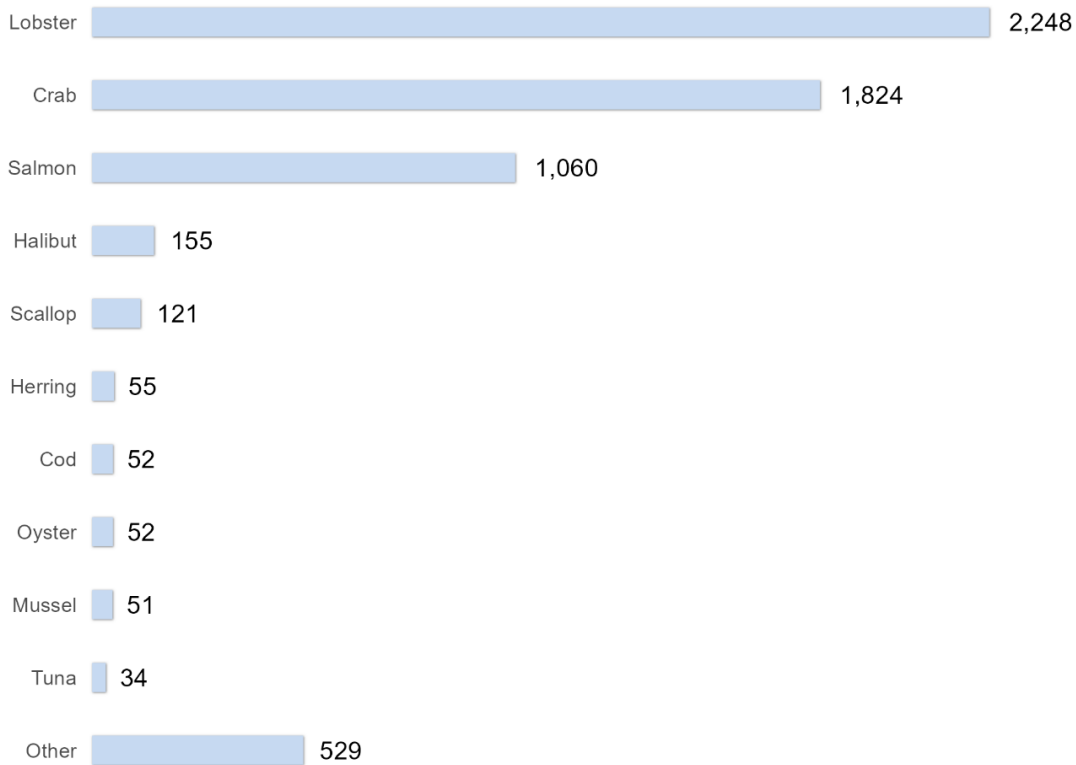
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In 2021, Canada's top fish and seafood exports by value to the US were lobster (\$2.25B), crab (\$1.82B), and salmon (\$1.06B). Together, these three species accounted for 83 per cent of total Canadian seafood exports by value to the US.



Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

Figure 4. Canada's Top 10 Fish and Seafood Exports to the US, 2021 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

The importance of the US market for Canada was underlined throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Exports to the US fell proportionally less than to other trade partners at the beginning, and have recovered more vigorously. Between 2020 and 2021 the value of Canada's exports to the US grew by 50 per cent compared to 36 per cent for the world as a whole. While the increasing concentration of Canadian fish and seafood exports to the US markets leaves Canada exposed to changes in American policy, exchange rate, and demand shocks, easy access to this large economy remains a significant asset for Canadian exporters.

Beginning on January 1, 2023 the United States will require fish and seafood imports to comply with the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* (MMPA) Import Provisions. To maintain US market access under the MMPA, exporting nations, including Canada, will have to meet US standards to mitigate harm to marine mammals. Canada has initiated a number of measures to meet the requirements of the US MMPA Import Provisions in close collaboration with Canadian harvesters and other stakeholders.

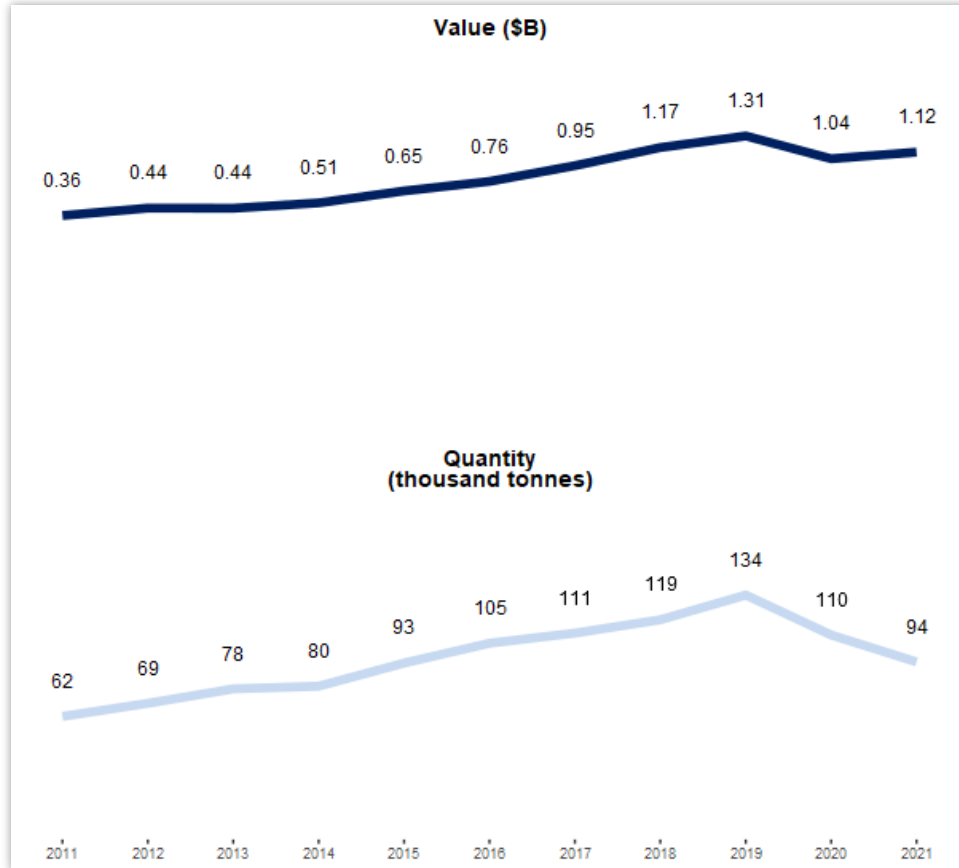


Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

China

China remained the second most valuable export destination for Canada's fish and seafood in 2021. Improved prices meant that total exports were worth \$1.12B, accounting for 13 per cent of Canada's total fish and seafood exports by value, despite a continuing decline in volumes.

Figure 5. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports to China, 2011-2021



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Prior to 2020, Canada's fish and seafood export value to China was experiencing strong and consistent yearly growth. However, export volume declined in 2020 and again in 2021 due to the ongoing economic effects of COVID-19 and related public health policy measures. Prices for Canadian exports of fish and seafood to China recovered well in 2021 with an increase of 26 per cent compared to 2020, slightly ahead of the United States, and sufficient to offset the decrease in quantity of 15 per cent. Ultimately, Canadian fish and seafood export value to China increased by 8 per cent (\$80M)

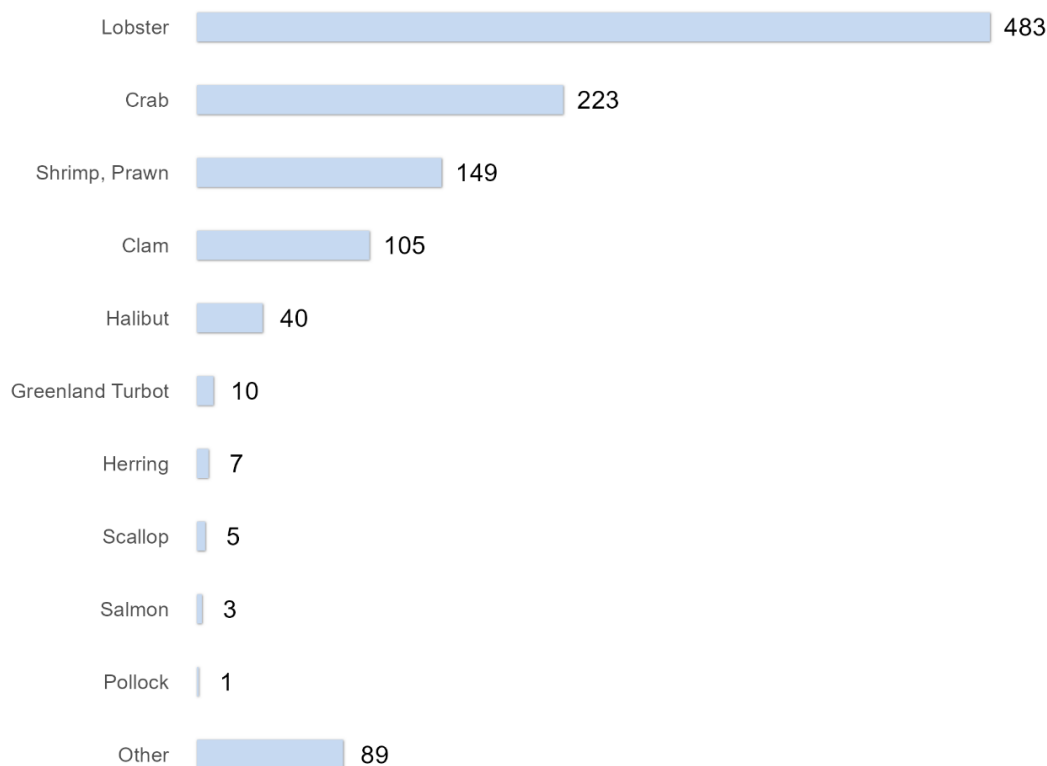


Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

between 2020 and 2021, somewhat less than the 36 per cent recovery overall that was driven by the US.

In 2021, Canada's top fish and seafood exports by value to China were lobster (\$484M), crab (\$223M), and shrimp (\$149M). Together, these three species accounted for 77 per cent of the value of Canadian fish and seafood exports to China.

Figure 6. Canada's Top 10 Fish and Seafood Exports to China, 2021 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Canada continued to be China's largest supplier of live lobster⁶ in 2021, accounting for 79 per cent of that market.⁷ Historically, Canada and the US had shared more equally in China's live lobster import market. However, since the US-China trade disputes and tariff escalation between the two countries began in 2018, the market share of live US lobster plummeted, from 41 per cent in 2017 to just 2 per cent in 2019, followed by a modest recovery to 21 per cent in 2021.⁸ This collapse was primarily due to the retaliatory tariffs placed on US lobster during 2018 and 2019.

⁶ HS Code 030632 (live *homarus* lobsters)

⁷ China's reported import statistics collected by China Customs, retrieved May 6, 2022 via the Global Trade Tracker.

⁸ *ibid.*



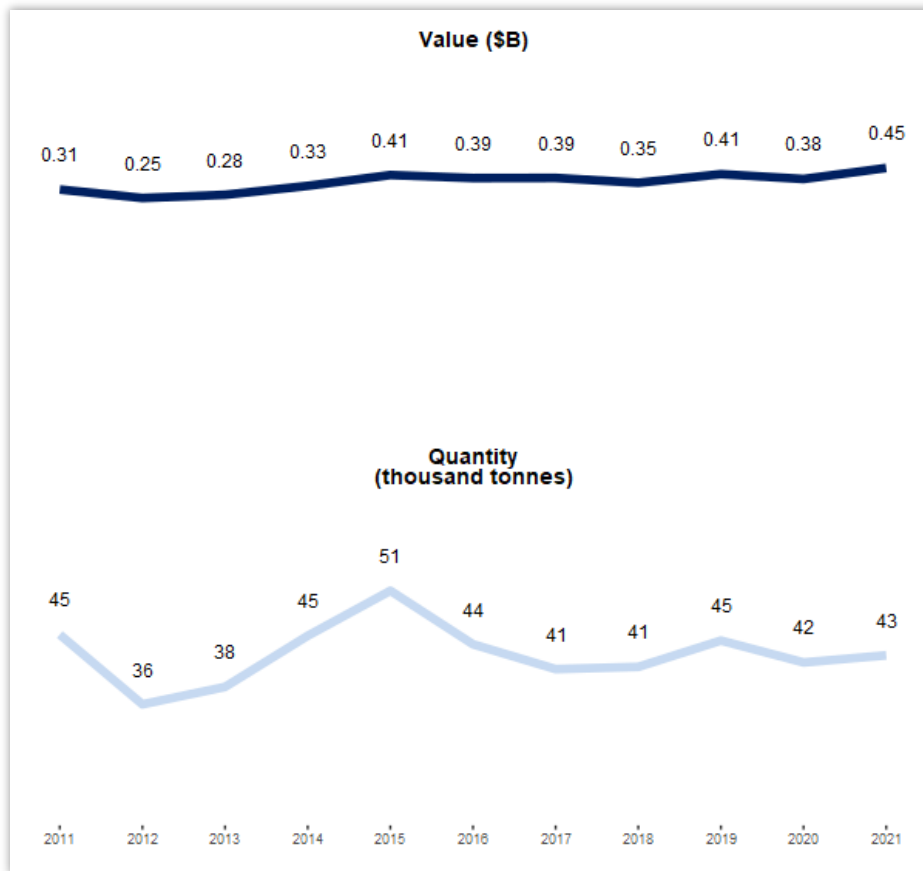
Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

European Union

In 2021, Canada's fish and seafood exports to the 27 current members of the EU were valued at \$453M, accounting for 5 per cent of Canada's total fish and seafood exports by value, and making it the third-largest export market for Canadian fish and seafood.

Export value increased 19 per cent and quantities increased by 2 per cent in 2021, compared with 2020. Both increases were lower than the overall increases for Canada's global seafood exports, of 36 per cent and 8 per cent respectively.

Figure 7. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports to the EU, 2011-2021



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

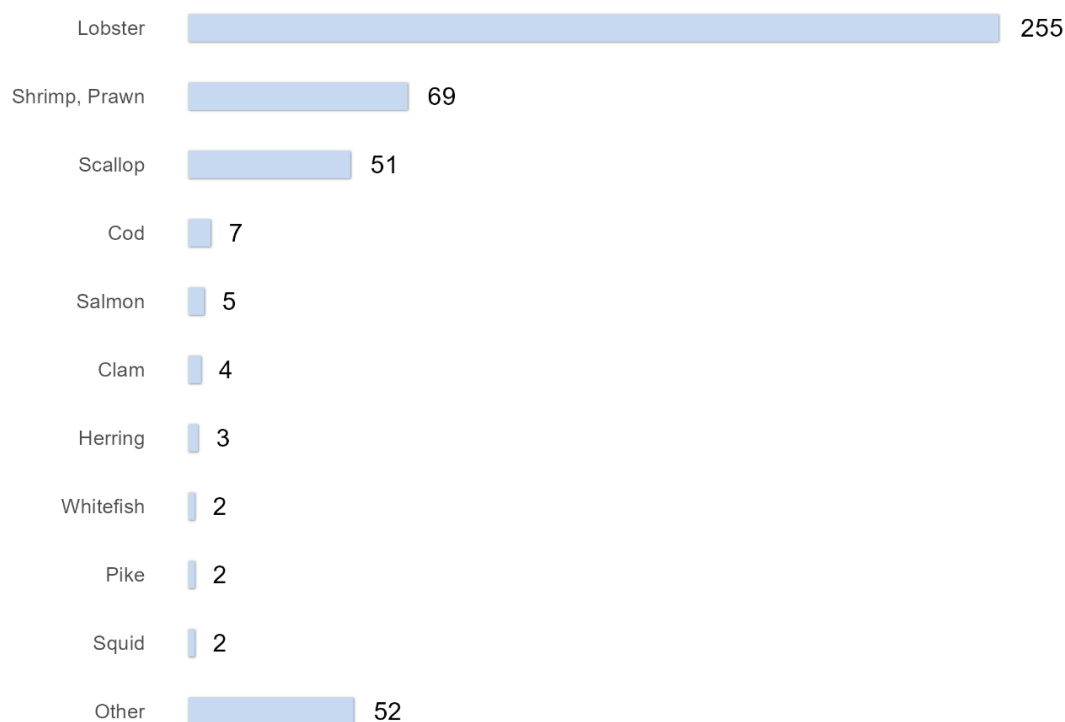
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Canada's top fish and seafood exports to the EU by value in 2021 were lobster (\$255M), shrimp (\$69M), and scallops (\$51M). Together, these three species accounted for 83 per cent of total Canadian fish and seafood exports by value to the EU.



Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

Figure 8. Canada's Top 10 Fish and Seafood Exports to the EU, 2021 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Of the 27 current members of the European Union, the five largest markets for Canada in 2021 were France (\$82M), Belgium (\$78M), Denmark (\$72M), Spain (\$70M), and the Netherlands (\$68M). Together these five countries received 82 per cent of Canada's seafood exports to the European Union.

Other Destinations

In 2021, Canadian exports to the remaining destinations were valued at \$1.04B, representing 12 per cent of Canada's total fish and seafood export value. Among these the most valuable destinations were Japan (\$249M), Hong Kong (\$166M), South Korea (\$129M), and the United Kingdom (\$111M).

The quantity and value of seafood exported to Japan recovered modestly in 2021. However, total value exported remained below 2016-2019 levels. Canada's top seafood exports by value to Japan were crab (\$72M, virtually all snow crab), herring (\$35M), lobster (\$33M), and salmon (\$25M). Together, these four species accounted for 66 per cent of total Canadian fish and seafood exports by value to Japan.



Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

Similarly, the recovery of the quantity and value of seafood exported to Hong Kong was positive in 2021, but with totals still below the levels seen between 2016 and 2019. By contrast, exports to South Korea recovered from the pandemic and ultimately exceeded pre-pandemic trade in both value and quantity.

The seventh largest destination economy for Canadian seafood exports is now the United Kingdom. Compared to the previous year, exports in 2021 rose by 70 per cent to \$111M. This was supported by both quantities increasing 50 per cent and prices increasing 13 per cent. However this rapid growth follows a sharp decline in 2020 and merely represents a return to the pre-pandemic trend, when trade was governed by the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

Table 1. Canada's Top 10 Fish and Seafood Exports by Destination, 2021

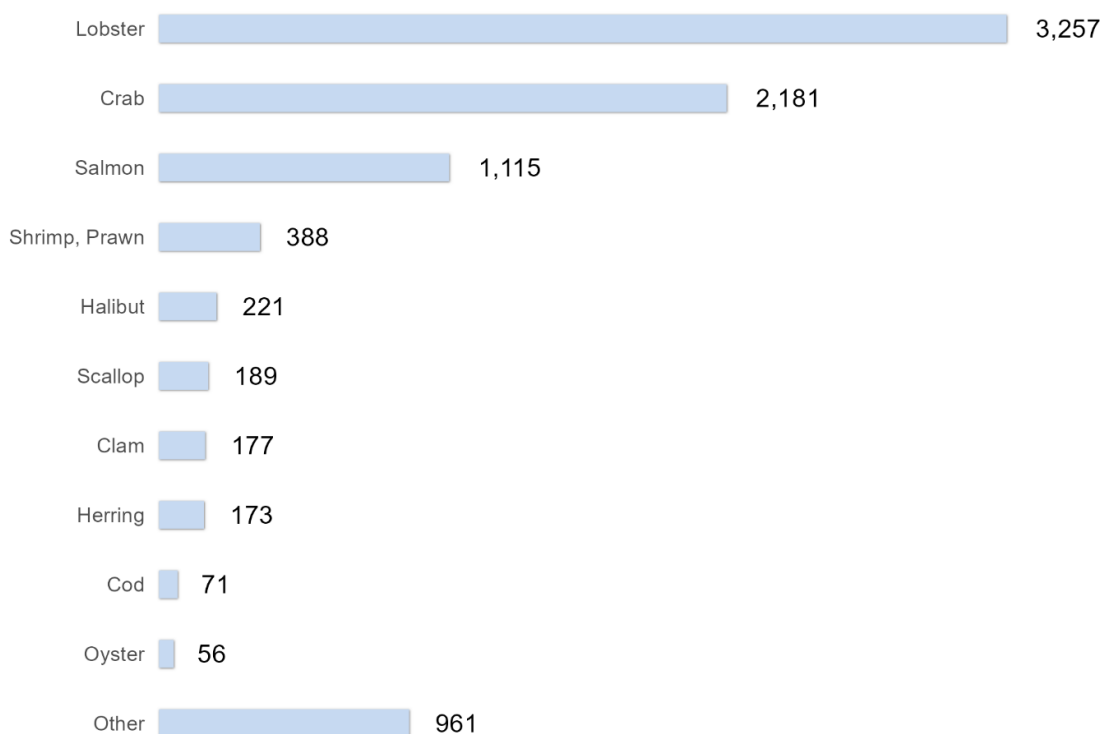
Country	2021 Value (\$M)	Change in Value (%)	Change in Quantity (%)	Change in Price (%)	Share of Exports (%)
United States	6,181	49.9	19.7	25.2	70.3
China	1,115	7.6	-14.6	26.0	12.7
EU	453	19.2	2.3	16.5	5.2
Japan	249	12.6	16.8	-3.6	2.8
Hong Kong	166	32.0	18.0	11.8	1.9
Korea, South	129	21.0	4.4	15.9	1.5
United Kingdom	111	70.4	50.2	13.4	1.3
Ukraine	57	12.8	15.6	-2.4	0.7
Viet Nam	43	-17.2	-23.6	8.4	0.5
Taiwan	41	18.5	28.4	-7.7	0.5
Other	244	-0.3	-7.2	7.4	2.8
Total	8,789	36.5	8.3	26.0	100.0
EU plus UK	563	26.7	7.9	17.5	6.4



Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Species

The three main species that Canada exports are lobster, crab, and salmon. Together these species make up 75 per cent of the value of Canada's fish and seafood exports.

Figure 9. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Species, 2021 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

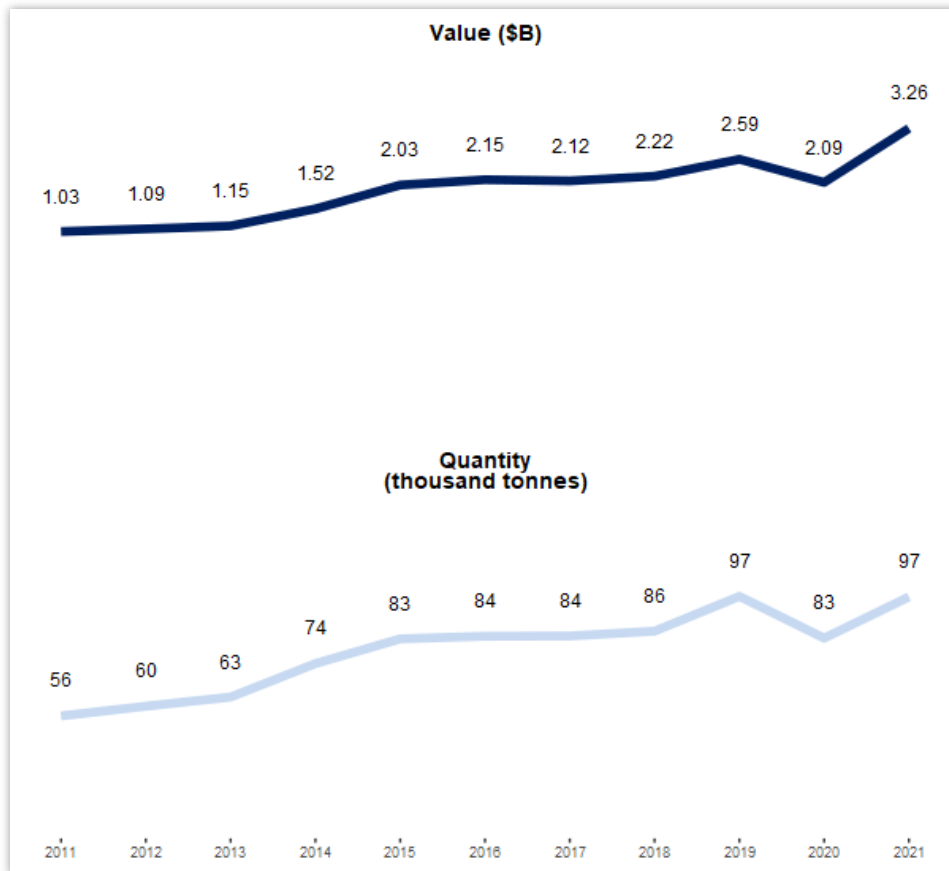
Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Lobster

In 2021, lobster made up 37 per cent of Canada's seafood exports. Lobster exports consisted of frozen (42 per cent by value), canned (20 per cent), and live (38 per cent). By volume, the main lobster exporting provinces in 2021 were Nova Scotia (52.6 thousand tonnes), New Brunswick (27.3 thousand tonnes), and Prince Edward Island (9.6 thousand tonnes). By value, these three provinces exported 92 per cent of Canada's lobster exports in 2021.

Canadian exports of lobster rose to a new high in 2021 mainly due to increased quantities and prices in the American market. Overall export value increased by \$1.17B (56 per cent) from 2020 to 2021 and quantity increased by 14 thousand tonnes (17 per cent).

Figure 10. Canada's Lobster Exports, 2011-2021



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

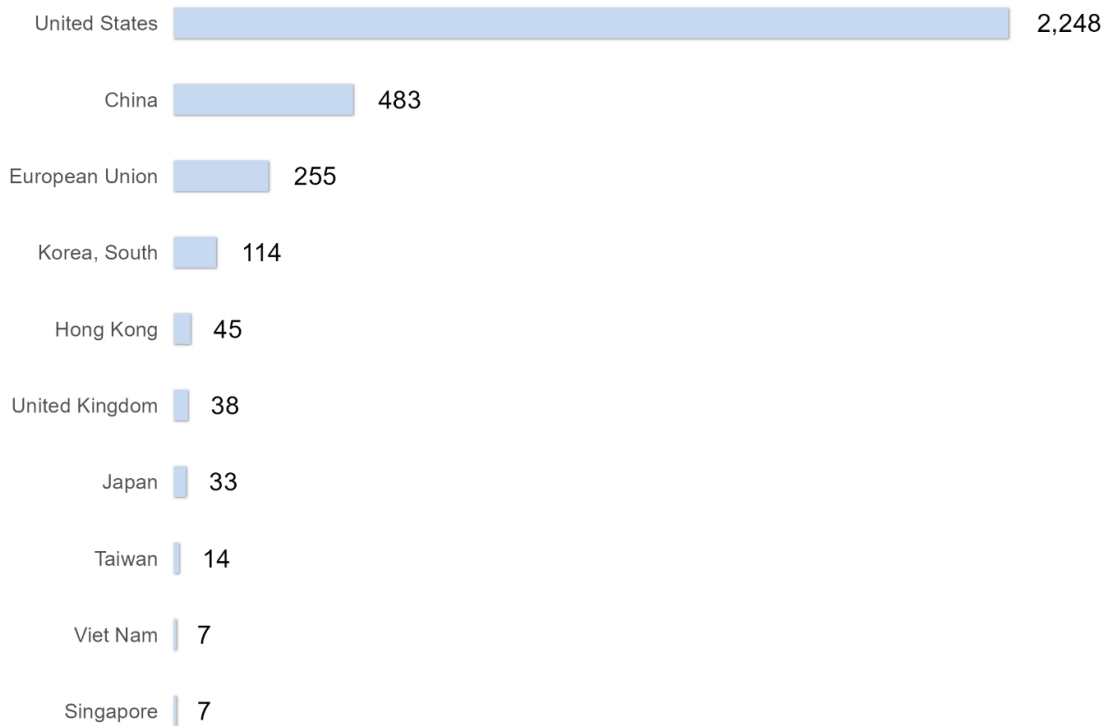
The United States was the destination for 69 per cent of Canadian lobster exports in 2021, in line with historical norms. The value of Canada's lobster exports to the United States increased by 71 per cent (\$931M) and quantities increased by 28 per cent (12 thousand tonnes). By value, Canada's lobster exports to the US mostly consisted of frozen (48 per cent by value), canned (29 per cent), and live (23 per cent) lobster.

China remained the second-largest destination, 15 per cent by value, for Canada's lobster exports in 2021. The value of lobster exports to China recovered by 19 per cent (\$77M) even as quantities declined by 4 per cent (0.97 thousand tonnes). While this does not bring values back to where they were in 2019, it is still significantly higher than values seen prior to 2018. The majority of Canadian lobster was exported live (94 per cent by value in 2021) to China.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

The third largest destination for Canadian lobster in 2021 was the European Union. Lobster exports to the EU were nearly evenly divided between live and frozen lobster.

Figure 11. Canada's Lobster Exports by Destination, 2021 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Crab

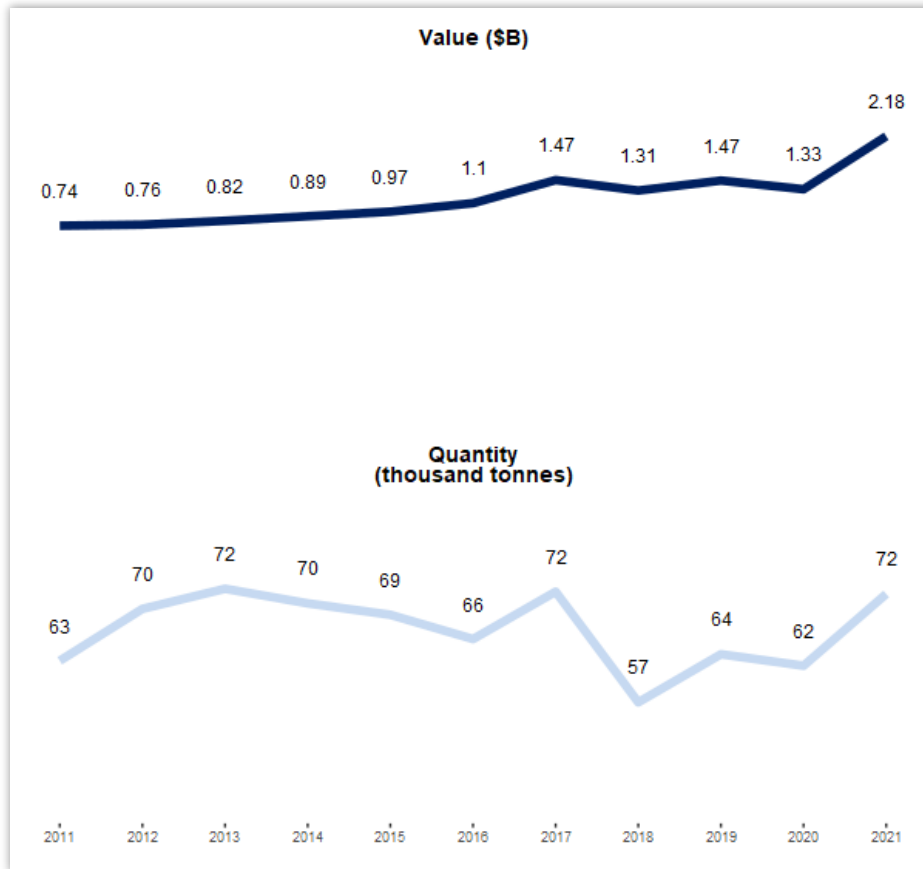
In 2021 crab exports, worth \$2.18B, accounted for 25 per cent of Canada's seafood exports by value. Of this, 71 per cent was identified as frozen snow crab, with another 14 per cent identified as unspecified frozen crab; based on harvests and geography, this is most likely also snow crab.

The main crab exporting province was Newfoundland and Labrador with exports worth \$883M. New Brunswick, \$364M, Nova Scotia, \$351M, and Quebec, \$273M, are also significant exporters of snow crab. British Columbia also exported crab valued at \$255M, mostly live Dungeness crab destined for China and the US.



Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

Figure 12. Canada's Crab Exports, 2011-2021



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

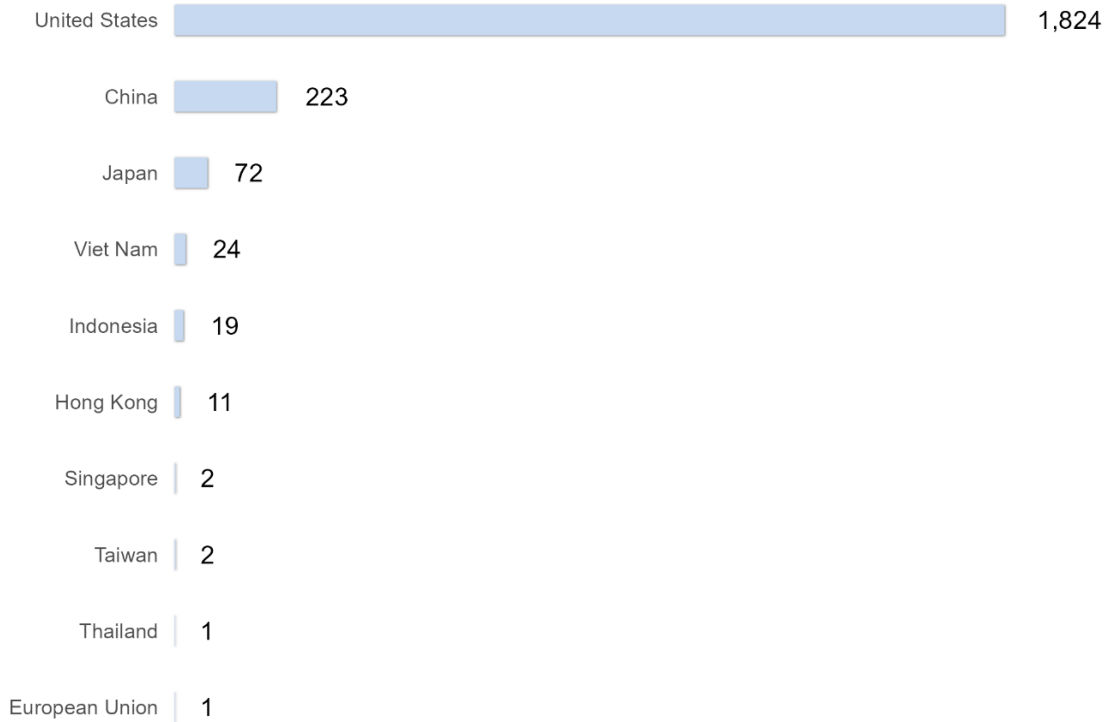
Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Crab prices have been strong in recent years and export quantities have mainly been determined by harvests. In 2021, Canada's crab export value increased 64 per cent (\$854M) from the previous year. This was due to both increased prices, up by 42 per cent, and quantities, up by 15 per cent.



Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

Figure 13. Canada's Crab Exports by Destination, 2021 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

The United States remained Canada's largest market with 84 per cent of crab exports, followed distantly by China with 10 per cent of crab exports.

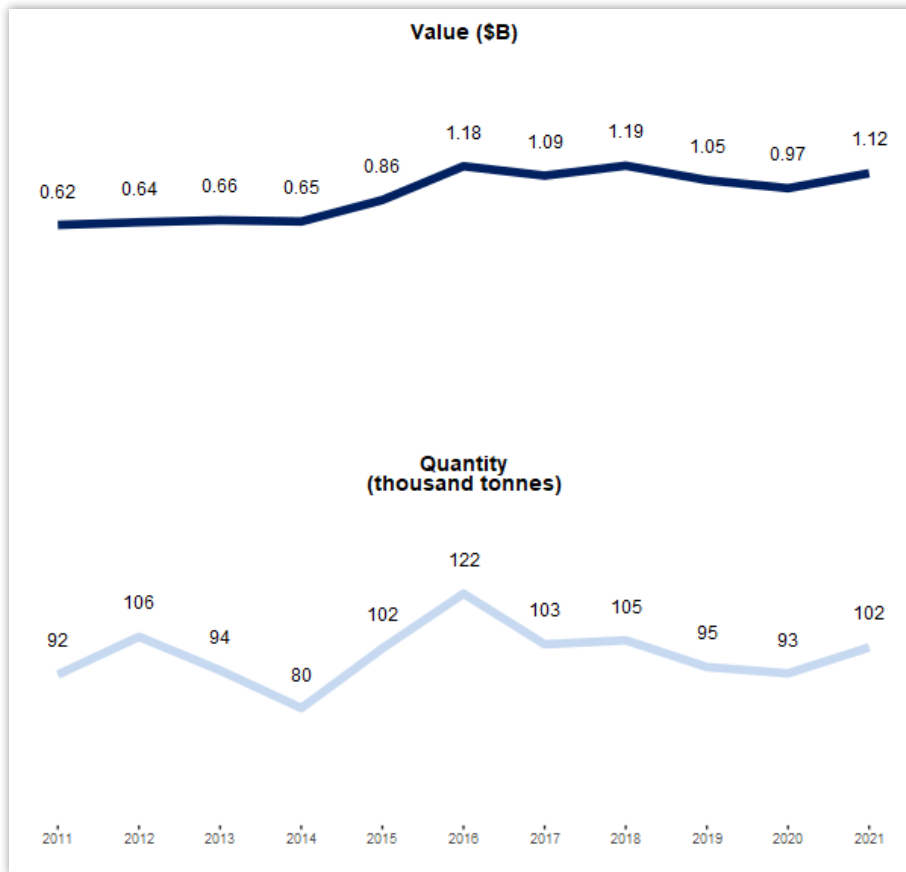


Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

Salmon

Canada exported \$1.1B worth of salmon in 2021, comprising 13 per cent of total seafood exports. Of this, 83 per cent was farmed Atlantic salmon, a proportion essentially unchanged from 2020.

Figure 14. Canada's Salmon Exports, 2011-2021



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Quantities and total value grew modestly in 2021. Quantities rose by 10 per cent, and total value rose by 15 per cent or \$145M. British Columbia exported salmon worth \$666M, while New Brunswick exported \$401M. These two provinces accounted for 96 per cent of Canada's salmon exports. The United States received 95 per cent of Canada's salmon exports.



Figure 15. Canada's Salmon Exports by Destination, 2021 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Other Species

In 2021 species other than lobster, crab, and salmon, made up just 25 per cent of the value of Canada's seafood exports. Of the remaining species, shrimp, halibut and scallops were the next most valuable exports.

In 2021 shrimp and prawn were mainly exported from Newfoundland and Labrador (\$177M), Nova Scotia (\$145M), and British Columbia (\$42M). They were mainly destined for China (\$149M), the EU (\$69M), and the United Kingdom (\$52M). The majority (85 per cent) of Canadian shrimp exported in 2021 consisted of frozen cold-water shrimps, essentially unchanged from 2020.

Canadian exports of halibut in 2021 were mainly from Nova Scotia (\$116M), Newfoundland and Labrador (\$54M), and British Columbia (\$42M). They were mainly destined for the United States (\$155M) and China (\$40M). Halibut exports consisted of both fresh (32 per cent) and frozen (68 per cent) halibut.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

In 2021, 89 per cent of scallop exports were from Nova Scotia (\$169M). They were mainly destined for the United States (\$121M) and the EU (\$51M).

Table 2. Canada's Top 10 Fish and Seafood Exports by Species, 2021

Species	2021 Value (\$M)	Change in Value (%)	Change in Quantity (%)	Change in Price (%)	Share of Exports (%)
Lobster	3,257	55.8	17.1	33.1	37.1
Crab	2,181	64.3	15.5	42.3	24.8
Salmon	1,115	15.0	10.5	4.1	12.7
Shrimp, Prawn	388	3.9	1.1	2.8	4.4
Halibut	221	32.3	37.2	-3.6	2.5
Scallop	189	10.7	-1.5	12.3	2.1
Clam	177	14.8	20.9	-5.0	2.0
Herring	173	-2.0	7.1	-8.5	2.0
Cod	71	22.0	29.9	-6.1	0.8
Oyster	56	120.2	117.7	1.1	0.6
Other	961	3.8	-0.4	4.2	10.9
Total	8,789	36.5	8.3	26.0	100.0



Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Province and Territory

In 2021 provincial seafood exports recovered generally with the largest recoveries seen in the Atlantic provinces where lobster and snow crab dominate. Provinces with more exposure to still-subdued Asian markets, mainly British Columbia, saw less pronounced recoveries from the declines in 2020.

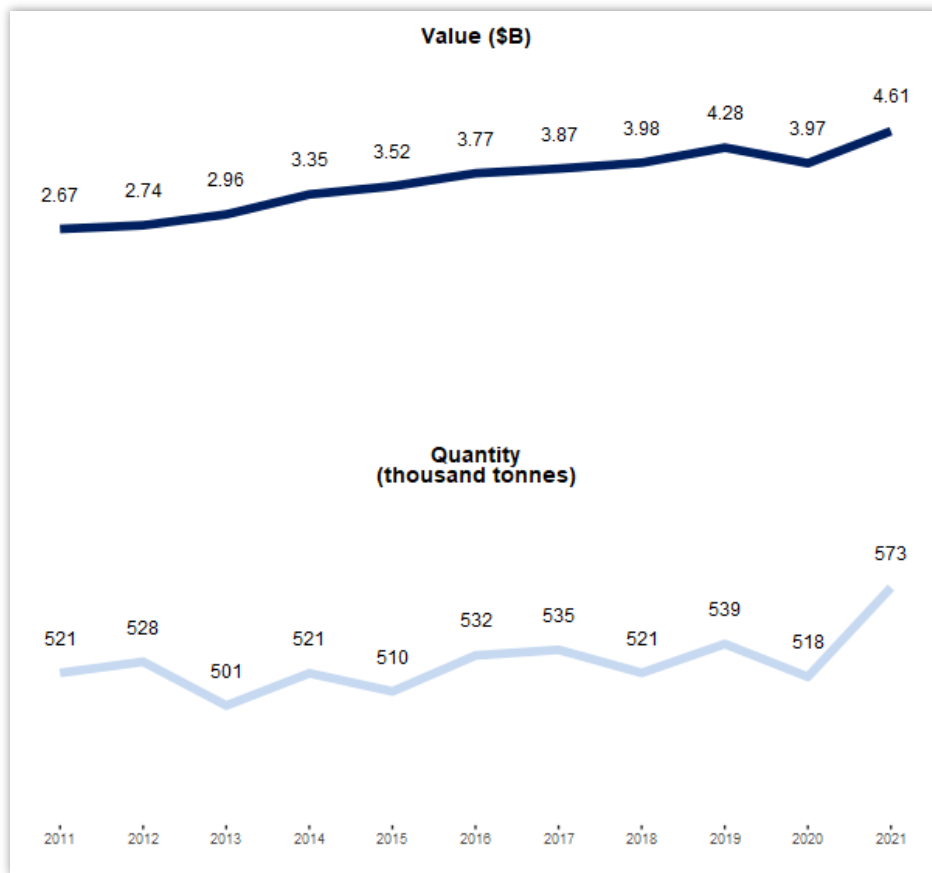
Table 3. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Province and Territory, 2021

Province	Value (\$M)	Quantity (thousand tonnes)	Species	Share of Exports
Nova Scotia	2,480	159	Lobster	53.1%
			Crab	14.1%
			Scallop	6.8%
New Brunswick	2,211	124	Lobster	56.1%
			Salmon	18.2%
			Crab	16.5%
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,422	106	Crab	62.1%
			Shrimp, Prawn	12.5%
			Lobster	8.5%
British Columbia	1,380	158	Salmon	48.3%
			Crab	18.5%
			Clam	4.9%
Prince Edward Island	546	28	Lobster	75.4%
			Crab	8.9%
			Mussel	7.8%
Quebec	489	17	Crab	55.9%
			Lobster	32.2%
			Shrimp, Prawn	3.3%
Other	261	21	Whitefish	6.7%
			Salmon	6.4%
			Pickarel	6.2%

Canada's Fish and Seafood Imports

In 2021 Canada imported \$4.61B of seafood. The main imports were salmon, shrimp and prawn, lobster, tuna, and crab. While exported products largely reflect Canadian harvests, imports provide Canadians with a more diverse choice of seafood, as well as more economical choices including those sourced from aquaculture. Imports also include fish and shellfish that may be processed in Canada for domestic or international markets.

Figure 16. Canada's Fish and Seafood Imports, 2011-2021



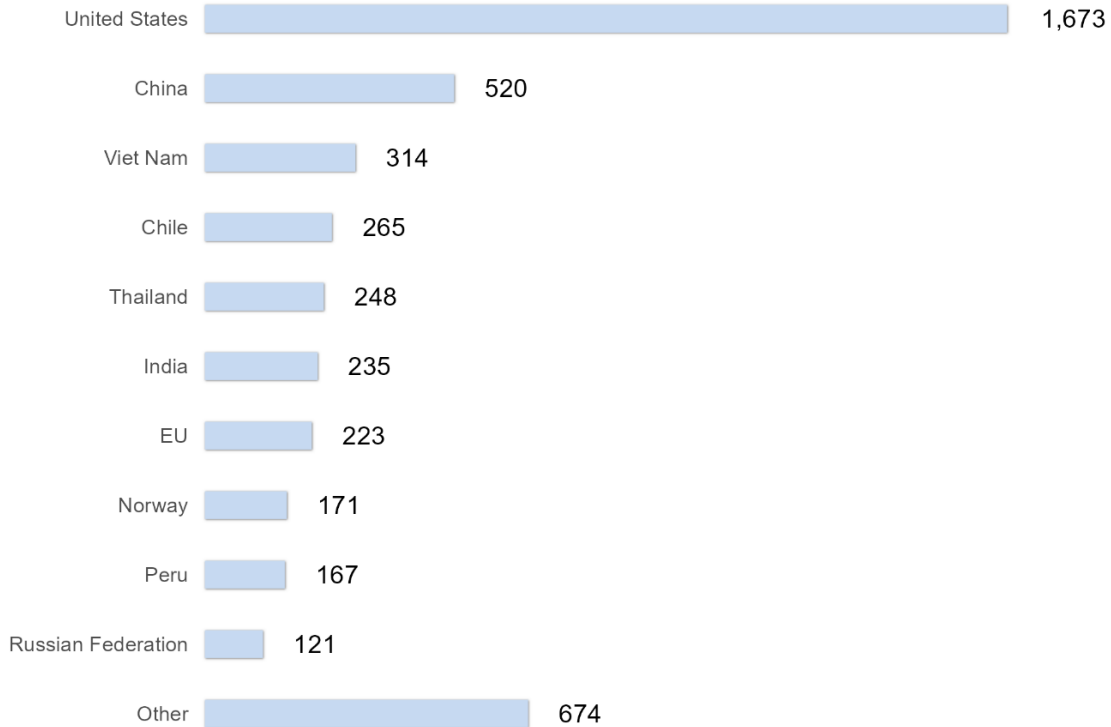
Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Imports by Origin

As a share of the value of Canada's fish and seafood imports, the United States supplied 36 per cent, while China supplied 11 per cent, and Viet Nam 7 per cent. Because there is a strong geographical component to fisheries production, a greater diversity in imported products is accompanied by a greater diversity of import partners.

Figure 17. Canada's Fish and Seafood Imports by Origin, 2021 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

In 2021, Canadian fish and seafood imports from suppliers other than the top 3 were valued at \$2.10B, representing 46 per cent of Canada's total fish and seafood import value.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

Table 4. Canada's Top 10 Fish and Seafood Imports by Origin, 2021

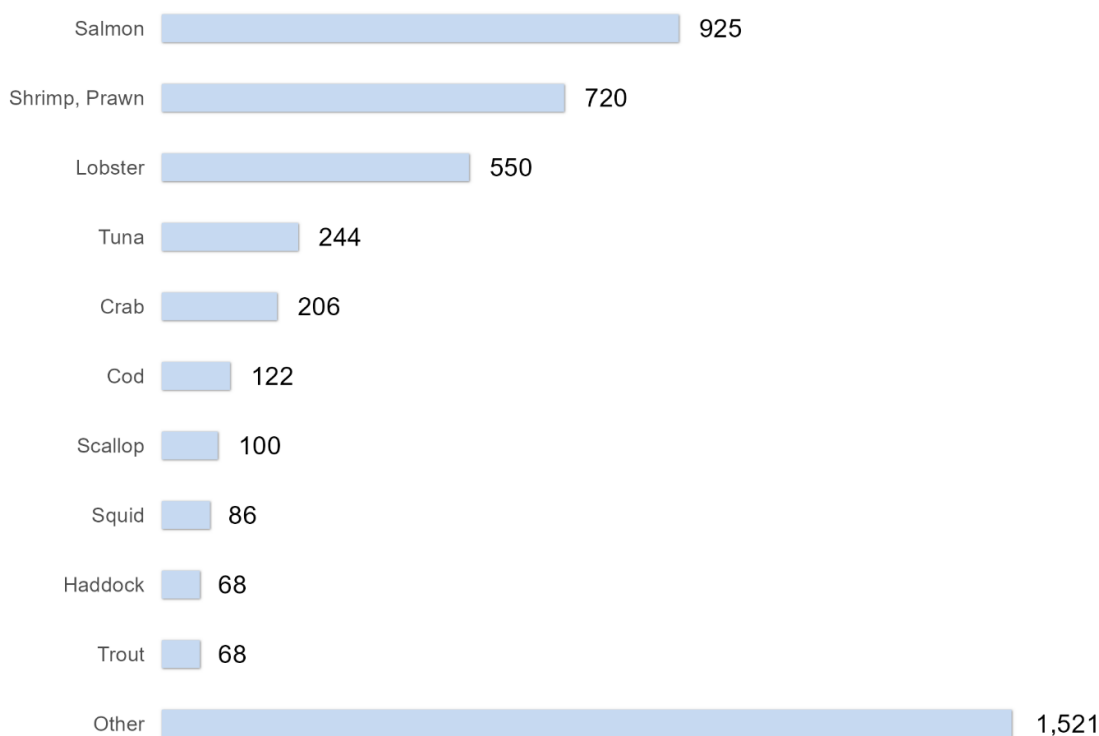
Country	2021 Value (\$M)	Change in Value (%)	Change in Quantity (%)	Change in Price (%)	Share of Exports (%)
United States	1,673	36.2	22.4	11.3	36.3
China	520	0.1	-0.9	1.1	11.3
Viet Nam	314	-6.5	-1.5	-5.0	6.8
Chile	265	-5.6	-24.7	25.4	5.8
Thailand	248	-12.3	-13.5	1.4	5.4
India	235	24.7	18.6	5.2	5.1
EU	223	20.5	11.2	8.4	4.8
Norway	171	27.8	25.5	1.8	3.7
Peru	167	8.5	20.7	-10.1	3.6
Russian Federation	121	28.8	29.4	-0.5	2.6
Other	674	17.9	18.0	-0.1	14.6
Total	4,611	16.0	10.5	5.0	100.0



Canada's Fish and Seafood Imports by Species

The top three import species in 2021 were salmon, shrimp and prawn, and lobster, jointly making up 48 per cent of Canada's seafood imports.

Figure 18. Canada's Fish and Seafood Imports by Species, 2021 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2022), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed July 13, 2022.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

In 2021, salmon made up 20 per cent of Canada's seafood imports. The main sources were the United States (\$491M), Chile (\$233M), and Norway (\$75M). This was primarily salmon fillets, either fresh (29 per cent) or frozen (17 per cent).

Shrimp and prawn were 16 per cent of seafood imports in 2021. The main sources were India (\$222M), Viet Nam (\$206M), China (\$89M), and Thailand (\$64M). Most shrimp imported to Canada is frozen cultured shrimp.

Lobster constituted 12 per cent of seafood imports in 2021, essentially all (\$546M) from the United States. New Brunswick is the main importer of lobster from the US, much of which is processed and exported. Such two-way trade flows provide important opportunities for Canadian value-adding industries.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

Table 5. Canada's Top 10 Fish and Seafood Imports by Species, 2021

Species	2021 Value (\$M)	Change in Value (%)	Change in Quantity (%)	Change in Price (%)	Share of Imports (%)
Salmon	925	20.0	21.4	-1.2	20.1
Shrimp, Prawn	720	8.3	9.5	-1.1	15.6
Lobster	550	90.7	33.6	42.8	11.9
Tuna	244	-7.1	-11.0	4.3	5.3
Crab	206	26.7	11.9	13.2	4.5
Cod	122	4.5	-0.6	5.0	2.6
Scallop	100	13.1	7.3	5.4	2.2
Squid	86	11.6	17.5	-5.0	1.9
Haddock	68	11.9	35.3	-17.3	1.5
Trout	68	-10.2	-10.6	0.4	1.5
Other	1,521	8.3	10.2	-1.7	33.0
Total	4,611	16.0	10.5	5.0	100.0

Overall Canadian seafood imports have recovered from the impacts of COVID-19 without a disproportionate increase in prices. Imports allow Canada to enjoy a more diverse range of seafood products than would otherwise be the case. They also support important value adding industries, as in the case of New Brunswick lobster imports.



Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2021

Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since exports market conditions are dynamic, some information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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