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Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Canada's Fish And Seafood Trade in 2023: Overview



Economics, Statistics and Data
Governance Directorate
Strategic Policy Sector
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
July 2024

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Cat. Fs1-89E-PDF ISSN 2562-8038

Published by: Economics, Statistics, and Data Governance Directorate,
Strategic Policy Sector, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E6

Correct Citation for this publication:
Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2024. Canada's Fish And Seafood Trade
in 2023: Overview. Ottawa: DFO. iii + 28 p.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

Highlights

- Canada's fish and seafood exports were worth **\$7.6B¹** in 2023, a 10 per cent decrease from 2022 (13% decrease in real terms).
- The quantity of exports was 536 **thousand tonnes**, a 5 per cent decrease from 2022, while average fish and seafood export prices fell 5 per cent (8% in real terms) over 2022.
- Top destinations were the **United States** (\$4.90B), **China** (\$1.44B), and the **EU²** (\$421M), accounting for 89 per cent of Canada's fish and seafood exports by value.

Top Destinations for Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports, 2023

Destination	Value of Exports (\$B)	Change ³ of Values (%)	Change of Volumes (%)	Change of Prices (%)	Share of Exports (%)
USA	4.90	-10	-3	-8	64
China	1.44	12	10	2	19
EU	0.42	-21	-14	-9	6
Other	0.85	-25	-22	-4	11
Total	7.61	-10	-5	-5	100

- Top species exported were **lobster⁴** (\$2.63B), **crab⁵** (\$1.52B), and **salmon** (\$1.01B), accounting for 68 per cent of total Canadian fish and seafood export value.

Canada's Top Fish and Seafood Exports by Species, 2023

Species	Value of Exports (\$B)	Change of Values (%)	Change of Volumes (%)	Change of Prices (%)	Share of Exports (%)
Lobster	2.63	-5	-10	6	35
Crab	1.52	-24	22	-37	20
Salmon	1.01	-16	-17	1	13
Other	2.45	0	-6	6	32
Total	7.61	-10	-5	-5	100

- The main exporting provinces were **Nova Scotia** (\$2.45B), **New Brunswick** (\$1.68B), and **British Columbia** (\$1.33B), accounting for 72 per cent of Canada's fish and seafood export value.
- The value of Canada's fish and seafood imports was \$4.57B, an 11 per cent decrease over the previous year (14.5% decrease in real terms).
- Top suppliers of fish and seafood to Canada were the **United States** (\$1.41B), **China** (\$546M), and **Chile** (\$368M), accounting for just over half (51%) of Canada's total fish and seafood import value.
- The top species imported were **salmon** (\$949M), **shrimp and prawn** (\$702M), **tuna** (\$290M), and **lobster** (\$283M), accounting for almost half (49%) of Canada's fish and seafood imports by value.

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, trade statistics are expressed in nominal values and are sourced from Statistics Canada, accessed through: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed: May 3, 2024. 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

DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EU	European Union
MMPA	<i>Marine Mammal Protection Act</i> of the United States
US	United States of America

- 1) Unless otherwise indicated, trade statistics are sourced from Statistics Canada and were accessed through: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed: May 3, 2024. 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 often vary from the corresponding 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 presented in this report are nominal not accounting for inflation, unless otherwise specified.
- 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 of the European Union in any of the time periods analyzed in this report.

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Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports

In 2023, Canada's fish and seafood exports were valued at \$7.61B, a decrease of 10 per cent from 2022. This represents a 13 per cent year-over-year decline in real value, taking inflation into account. In terms of quantity, Canada exported 536 thousand tonnes of fish and seafood in 2023, a 5 per cent decrease from the previous year. Overall average export price decreased by 5 per cent in nominal terms, and by 8 per cent in real terms.

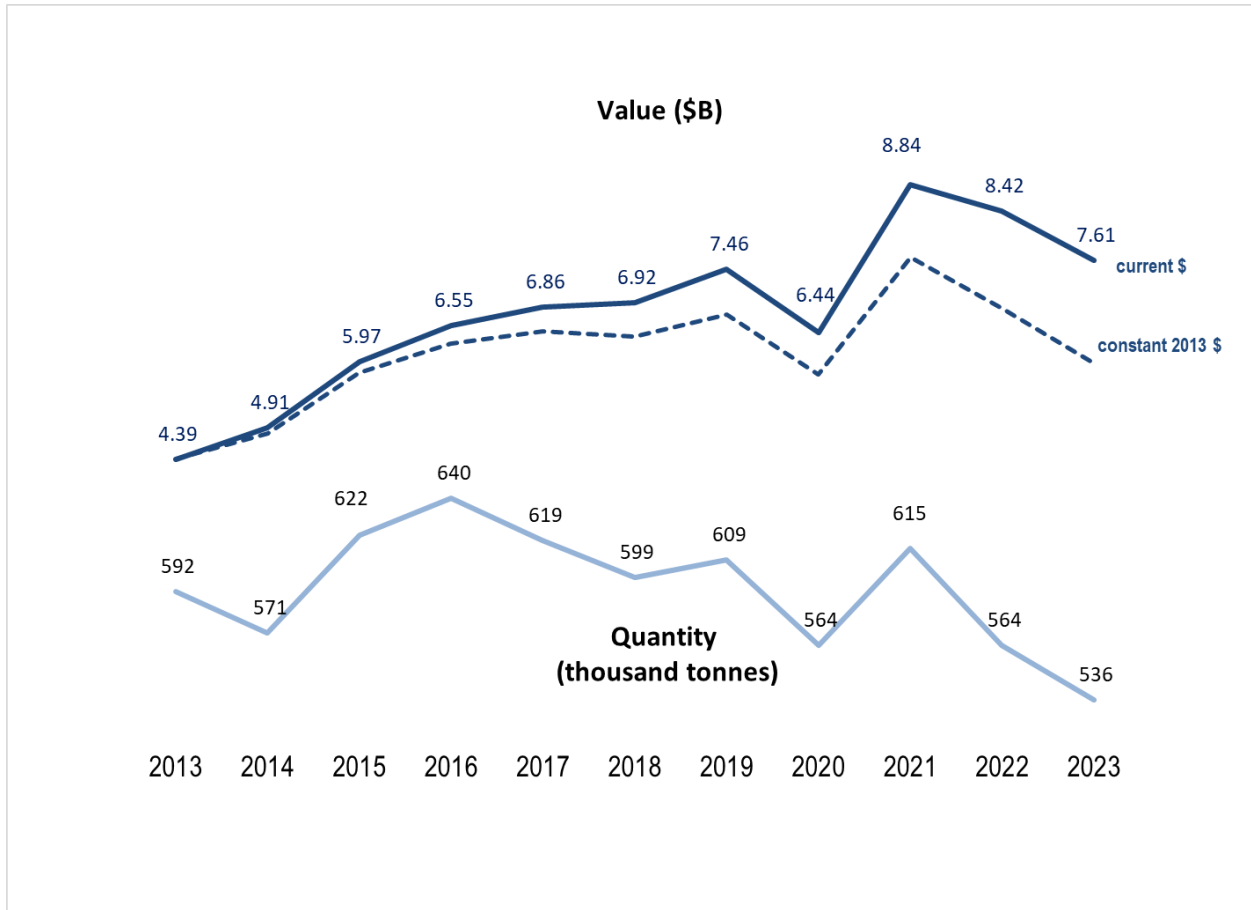
In the pre-pandemic years from 2016 to 2019 the annual growth in real value averaged close to 4 per cent, with small changes in quantities and annual growth in average real prices in excess of 4 per cent. By contrast, in the post-pandemic years from 2020 to 2023, real value declined by more than 1 per cent per year on average, with close to 3 per cent annual decline in quantities, and less than 1 per cent annual growth in average real prices.

Apart from posting weaker averages relative to the pre-pandemic years, exports from recent years have also been marked by large year-to-year variation. A 14 per cent decrease in the real value of exports occurred during the pandemic year of 2020, followed by a 33 per cent increase during the recovery year of 2021. An 11 per cent decrease in 2022 signaled another reverse in trend, confirmed by the continued decline of 13 per cent in 2023.

As of 2023, the real value of Canadian exports had not shown evidence of a return to the longer-term ascending trend seen in the decade prior to the pandemic shock. After a low in 2020 and a particularly strong year in 2021, two years of weaker prices and lower export quantities brought the real value of exports back to a level comparable those in the mid-2010s. These movements reflect the broader economic environment of heightened spending in 2021 as economies re-opened, followed by a period of diminished economic activity as government policies to curb inflation came into play. To the extent that inflationary pressures continue to demand policy intervention, expectations for real growth in seafood export value remain modest.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

Figure 1. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports, 2013-2023



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

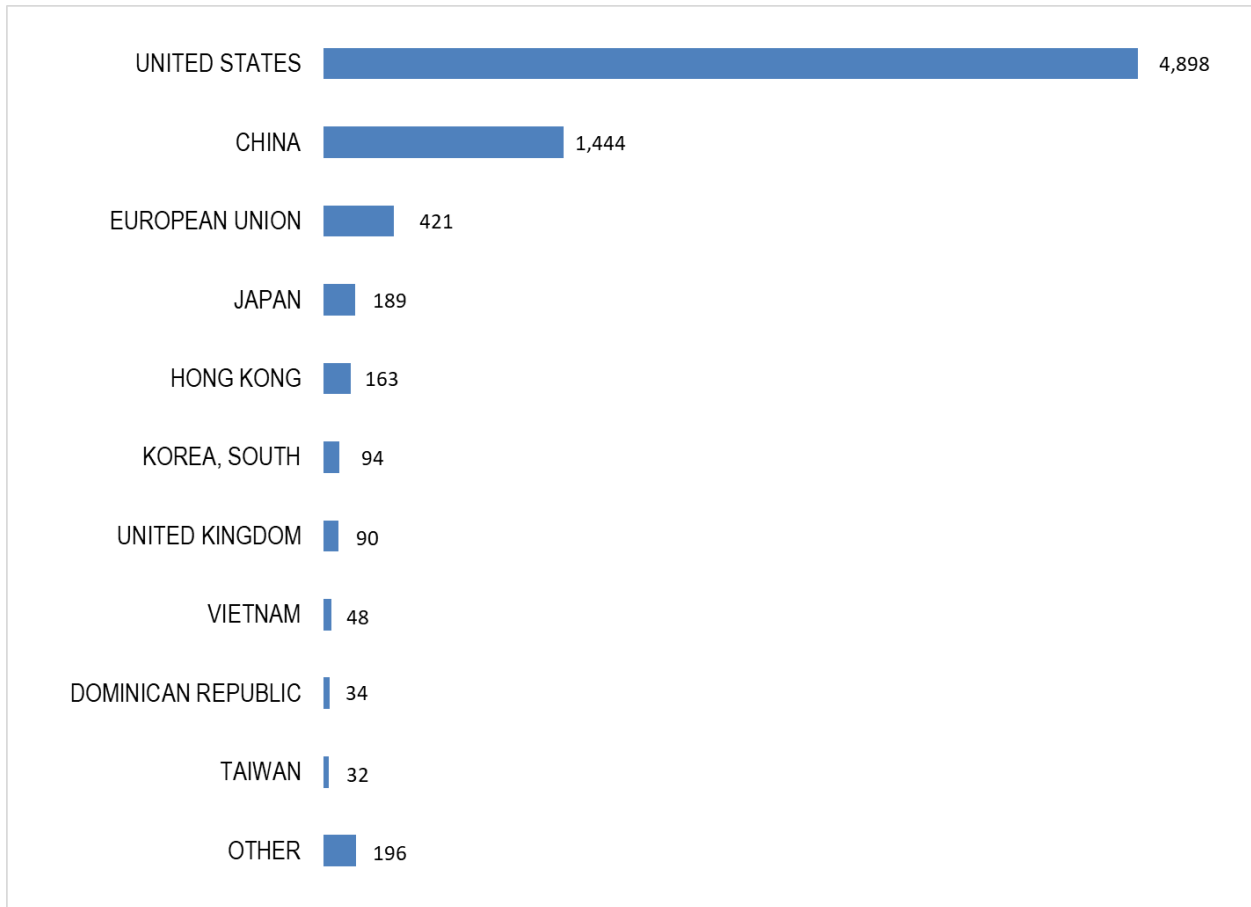
Adapted from Statistics Canada, *International Trade Data*. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Destination

The United States continued to be Canada's most important trade partner in 2023, importing \$4.9B of Canada's fish and seafood. China and the EU ranked a distant second and third, similar to previous years, with \$1.4B and \$0.4B, respectively. Together, Canada's top 3 export destinations accounted for 89 per cent of its fish and seafood exports by value.

Figure 2. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Destination, 2023 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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 2023

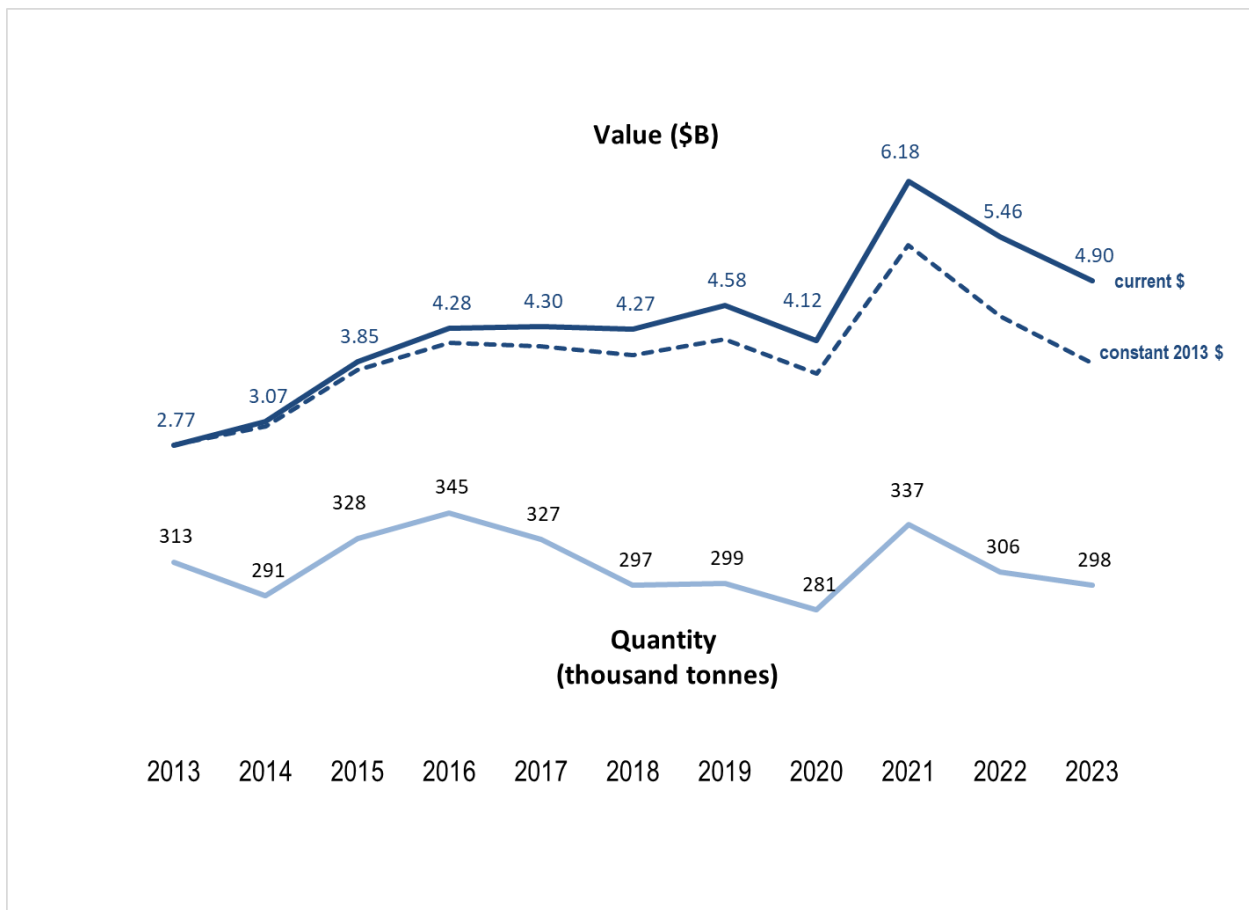
United States

In 2023, \$4.9B of Canadian fish and seafood was exported to the United States, representing 64 per cent of Canadian exports by value. This was a decrease of 10 per cent (14% in real terms) compared to 2022. Quantities decreased by 3 per cent.

Consistent with Canada's global exports, exports to the US have also been more variable in recent years. A peak in 2021 was driven by strong demand when US restaurants and entertainment venues re-opened more quickly than markets in other countries following the pandemic, and was facilitated by transportation routes to the US from Canada that are less complex and thus also reopened earlier.

Declines followed in 2022 and 2023, placing the value of Canadian exports to the US, after accounting for inflation, closer to values that preceded the volatility initiated by the pandemic.

Figure 3. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports to the US, 2013-2023



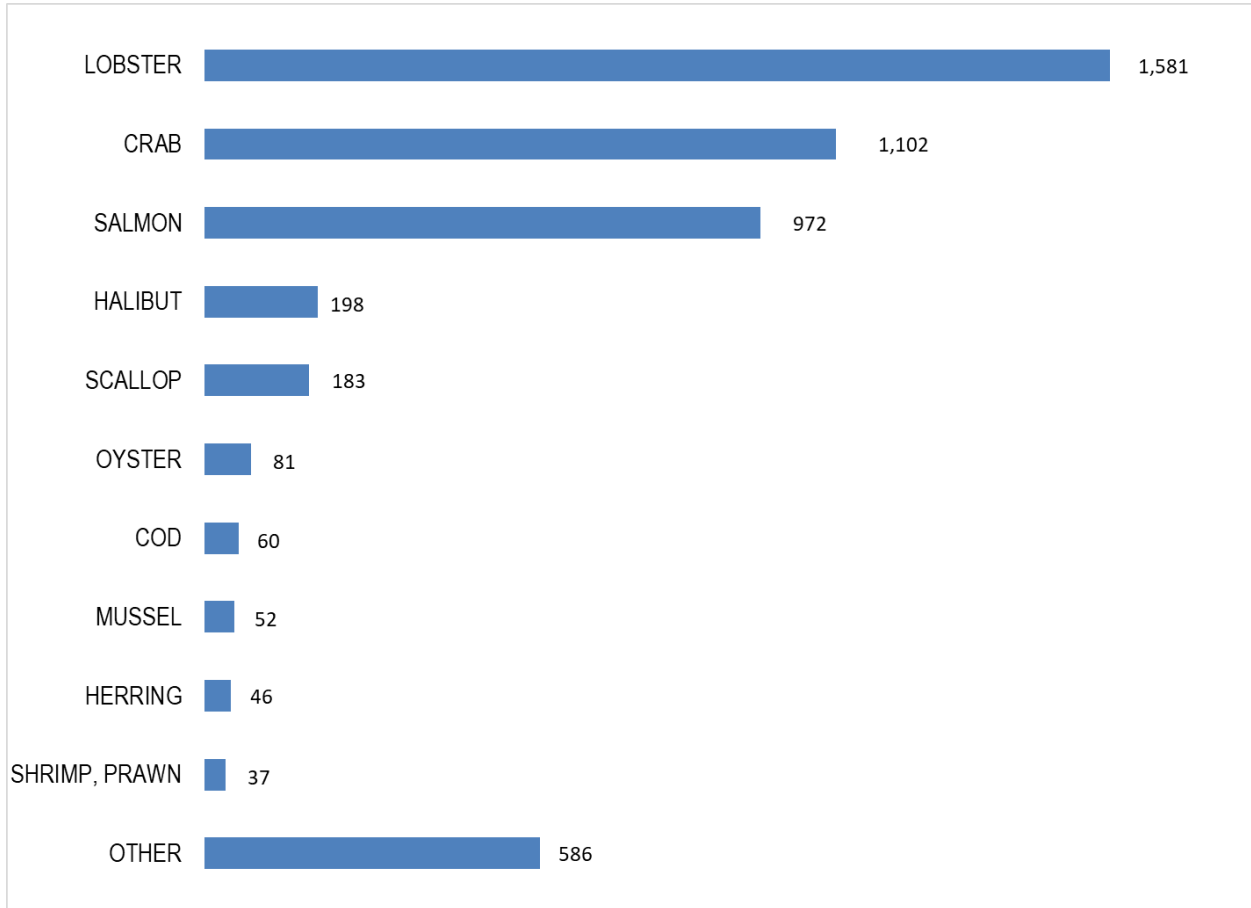
Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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 2023

As in previous years, Canada's top fish and seafood exports by value to the US were lobster (\$1.58B), crab (\$1.10B), and salmon (\$0.97B). Together, these three species accounted for three quarters of the Canadian seafood exports to the US in 2023.

Figure 4. Canada's Top Fish and Seafood Exports to the US, 2023 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

The planned implementation of Import Provisions under the US Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) was delayed a third time, from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2026. To maintain US market access under the MMPA, harvesting nations that export fish or fish products to the US must have measures in place that are comparable to US standards to reduce the bycatch of marine mammals during commercial fishing and aquaculture operations. In 2021 Canada submitted comparability finding applications for 323 Canadian fisheries and aquaculture operations that export their fish and fish



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products to the US, along with the intermediary nation data to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

To avoid circumvention of MMPA import provisions, the US requires intermediary nations (nations that import and re-export fish or fish products to the US) to certify that their exports do not contain prohibited products from another nation. Similarly, for Canadian fisheries that may not secure comparability findings, it will be necessary to demonstrate to US authorities that products from such fisheries are not being exported to the US.

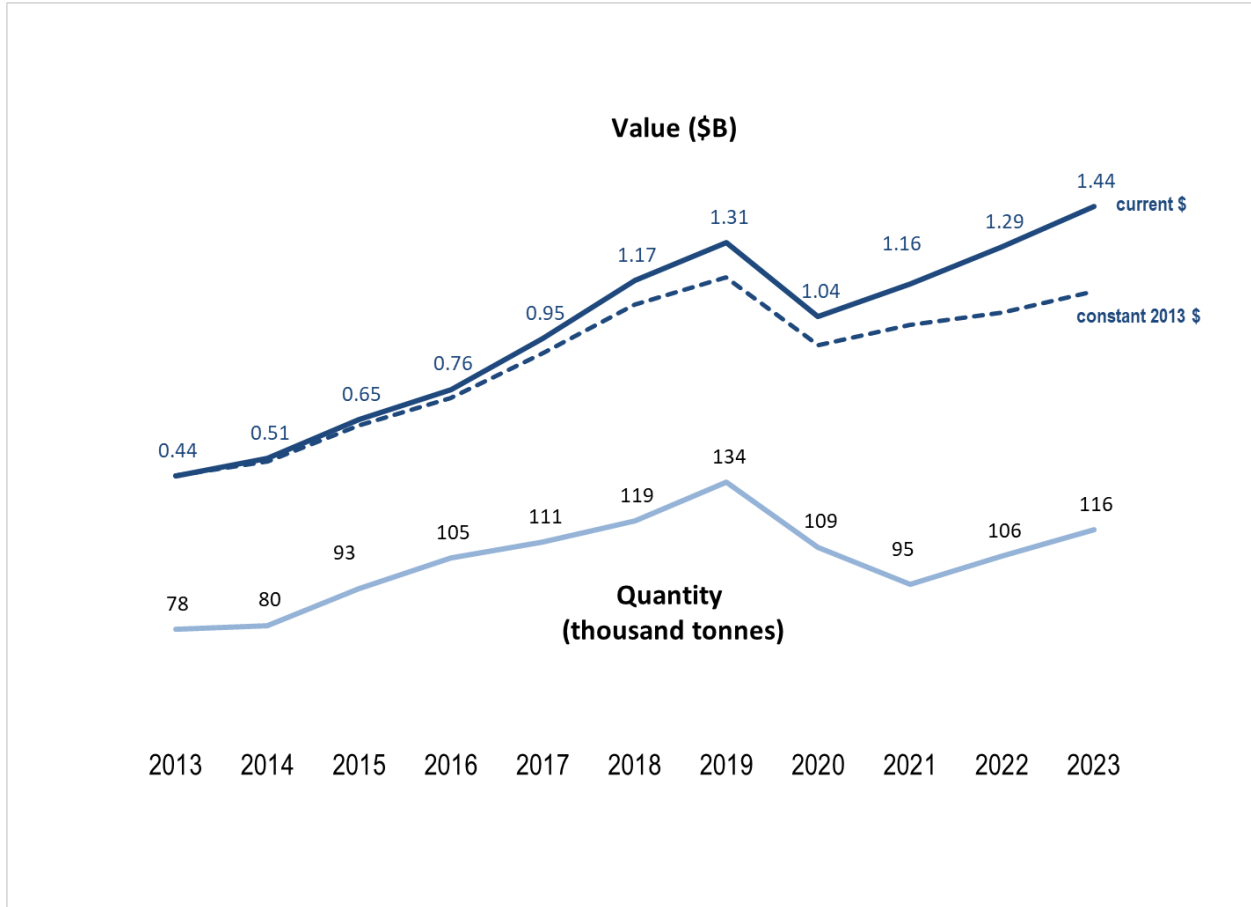
In preparation to meet the potential certification of admissibility requirement under MMPA, Canada has developed a certification scheme using the already existing Fisheries Certificate System, that leverages current certification services offered by DFO for other market destinations such as the EU, United Kingdom, Ukraine, and Japan.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

China

China remained the second most valuable export destination for Canada's fish and seafood in 2023, and was a mitigating exception to the decline in Canada's global exports. Export value to China grew by 12 per cent (7% real growth), accounting for almost a fifth (19%) of Canada's total exports. Quantities grew by 10 per cent.

Figure 5. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports to China, 2013-2023



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

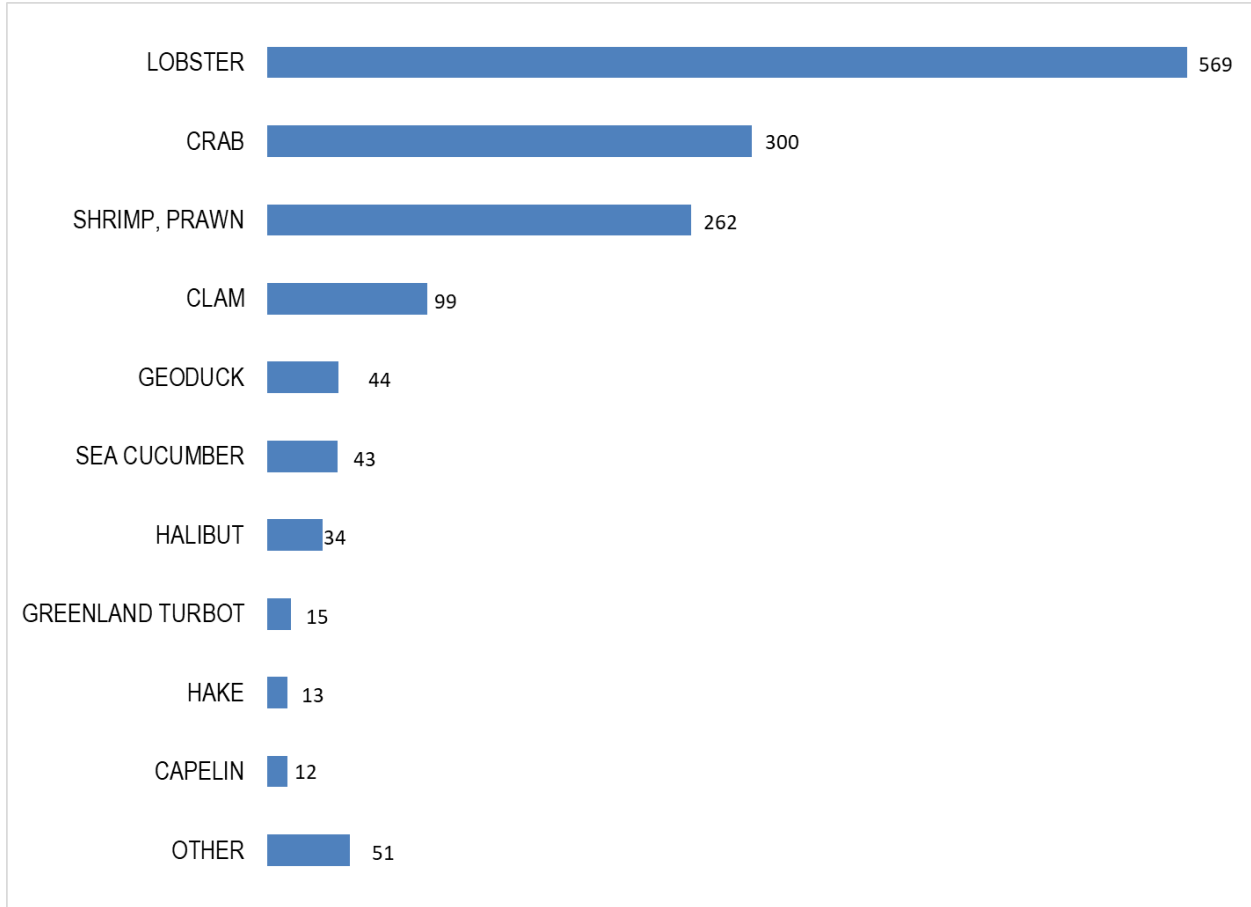
Although exports to China have been growing since 2021, the double-digit real growth rates observed in the pre-pandemic years have not returned. Ongoing economic and political issues raise questions about further growth of exports to China in the near term. China is striving to head off an economic downturn as it seeks to formulate the appropriate policy response to its faltering real estate markets. Since households keep much of their wealth in real estate, there is concern they may reduce spending overall. Furthermore, Russian products may be displacing imports from other sources, since

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they are competitively priced in the markets of countries that did not impose sanctions in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In 2023, Canada's top fish and seafood exports by value to China were lobster (\$569M), crab (\$300M), and shrimp (\$262M). Together, these three species accounted for 78 per cent of the value of Canadian fish and seafood exports to China.

Figure 6. Canada's Top Fish and Seafood Exports to China, 2023 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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 2023, accounting for 76 per cent of that market.⁷ Historically, Canada and the US had shared more equally in China's live lobster import market; however, US exports of live lobster to China have not recovered since the trade disputes that were initiated prior to the pandemic.

⁶ HS Code 030632 (live *homarus* lobsters)

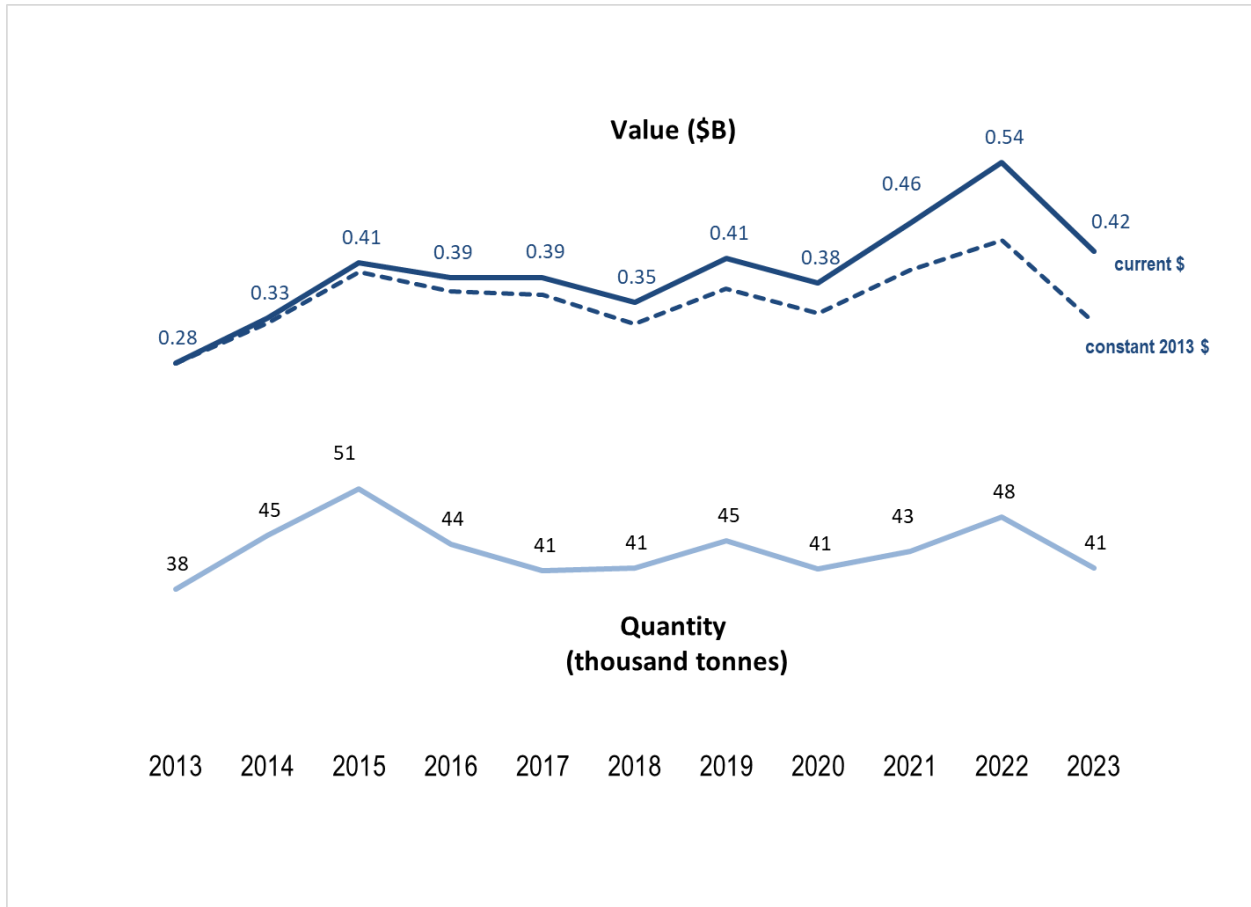
⁷ China's reported import statistics collected by China Customs, retrieved June 12, 2024 via the Global Trade Tracker.

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European Union

In 2023, Canada's fish and seafood exports to the 27 current members of the EU were valued at \$421M, accounting for 6 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 decreased 21 per cent (24% decrease in real terms) and quantities decreased by 14 per cent compared with 2022.

Figure 7. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports to the EU, 2013-2023



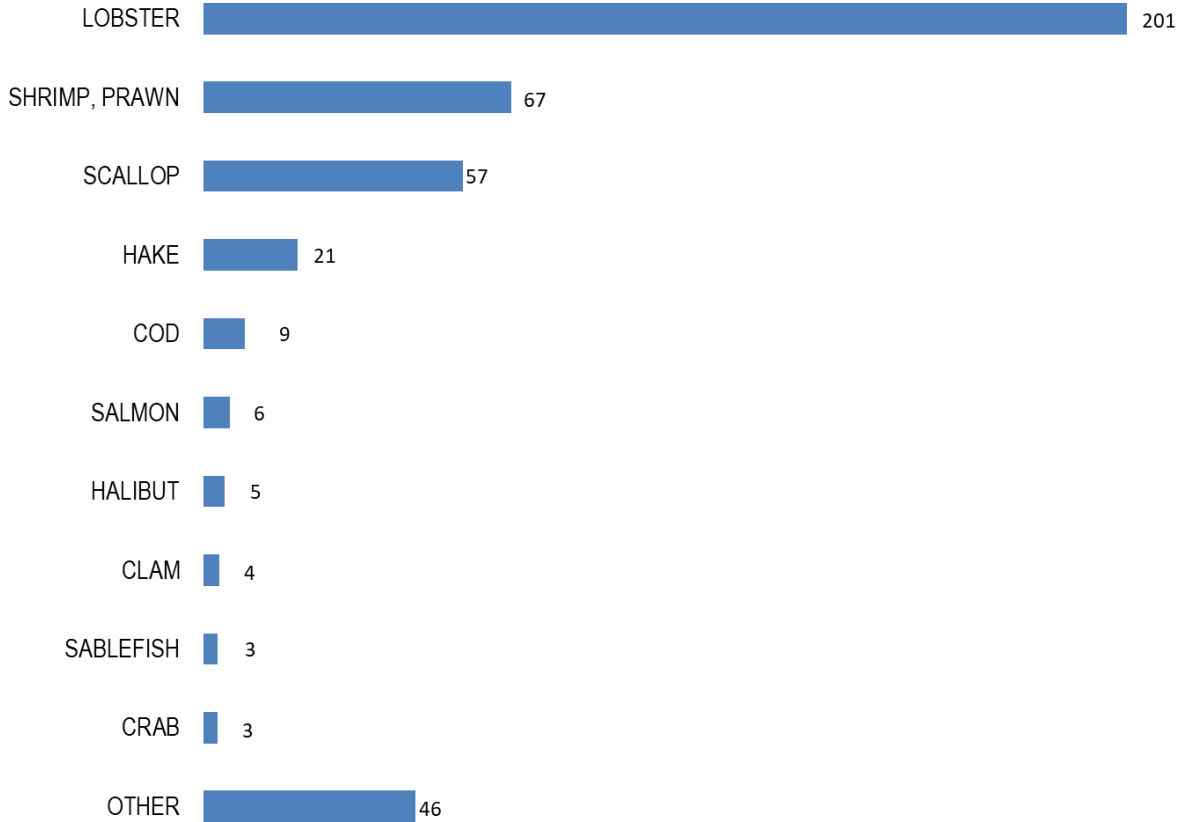
Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

Most of this decline is explained by a drop in lobster, the top export to the EU, from \$310M in 2022 to \$201M in 2023. Shrimp (\$67M) and scallop (\$57M) complete the top three, and together these three species accounted for 77 per cent of total Canadian fish and seafood export value to the EU.

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Figure 8. Canada's Top Fish and Seafood Exports to the EU, 2023 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.
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 2023 were France (\$99M), Belgium (\$69M), Denmark (\$59M), Netherlands (\$55M), and Spain (\$48M). Together these five countries received 79 per cent of Canada's seafood exports to the European Union.

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Other Destinations

In 2023, Canadian exports to the remaining destinations were valued at \$846M, representing 11 per cent of Canada's total fish and seafood export value. Among these the most valuable destinations were Japan (\$189M), Hong Kong (\$163M), South Korea (\$94M), and the United Kingdom (\$90M).

Table 1. Canada's Top Fish and Seafood Export Destinations, 2023

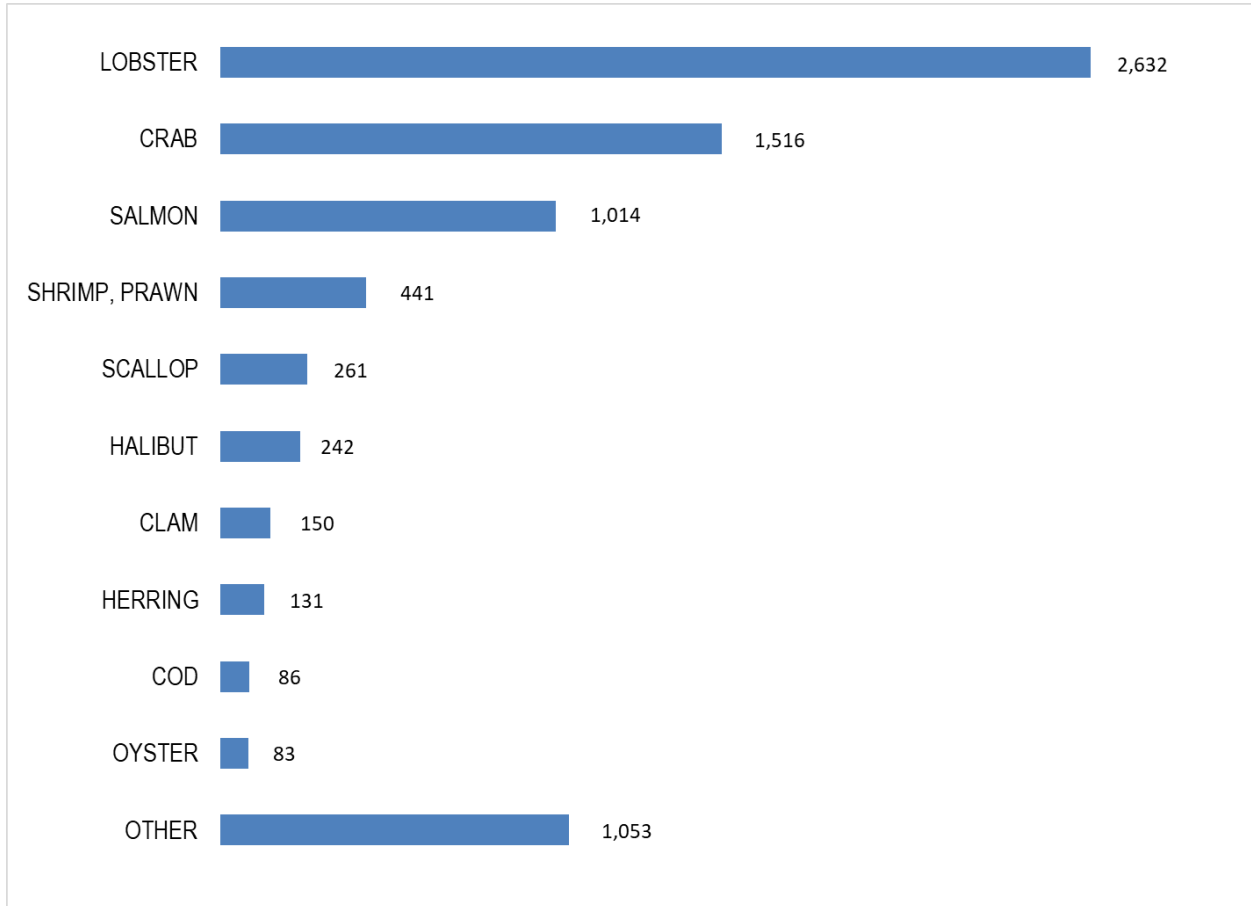
Country	2023 Value (\$M)	Change in Value* (%)	Change in Quantity (%)	Change in Price* (%)	Share of Exports (%)
UNITED STATES	4,898	-10 (-14)	-3	-8 (-11)	64
CHINA	1,444	12 (7)	10	2 (-2)	19
EUROPEAN UNION	421	-21 (-24)	-14	-9 (-12)	6
JAPAN	189	-25 (-28)	-28	4 (1)	2
HONG KONG	163	2 (-2)	34	-23 (-26)	2
KOREA, SOUTH	94	-35 (-38)	-33	-4 (-8)	1
UNITED KINGDOM	90	-20 (-23)	-21	0 (-3)	1
VIETNAM	48	-47 (-49)	-17	-36 (-39)	1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	34	-18 (-21)	-15	-4 (-8)	<1
TAIWAN	32	-25 (-28)	-28	4 (0)	<1
OTHER	196	-29 (-32)	-24	-7 (-11)	3
Total	7,609	-9.6 (-13)	-5	-4.8 (-8.3)	100

*Numbers in parentheses are percent changes in real value or price.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Species

Canada's exports are led by lobster, crab, and salmon. Together these species make up 68 per cent of the value of Canada's fish and seafood exports.

Figure 9. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Species, 2023 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

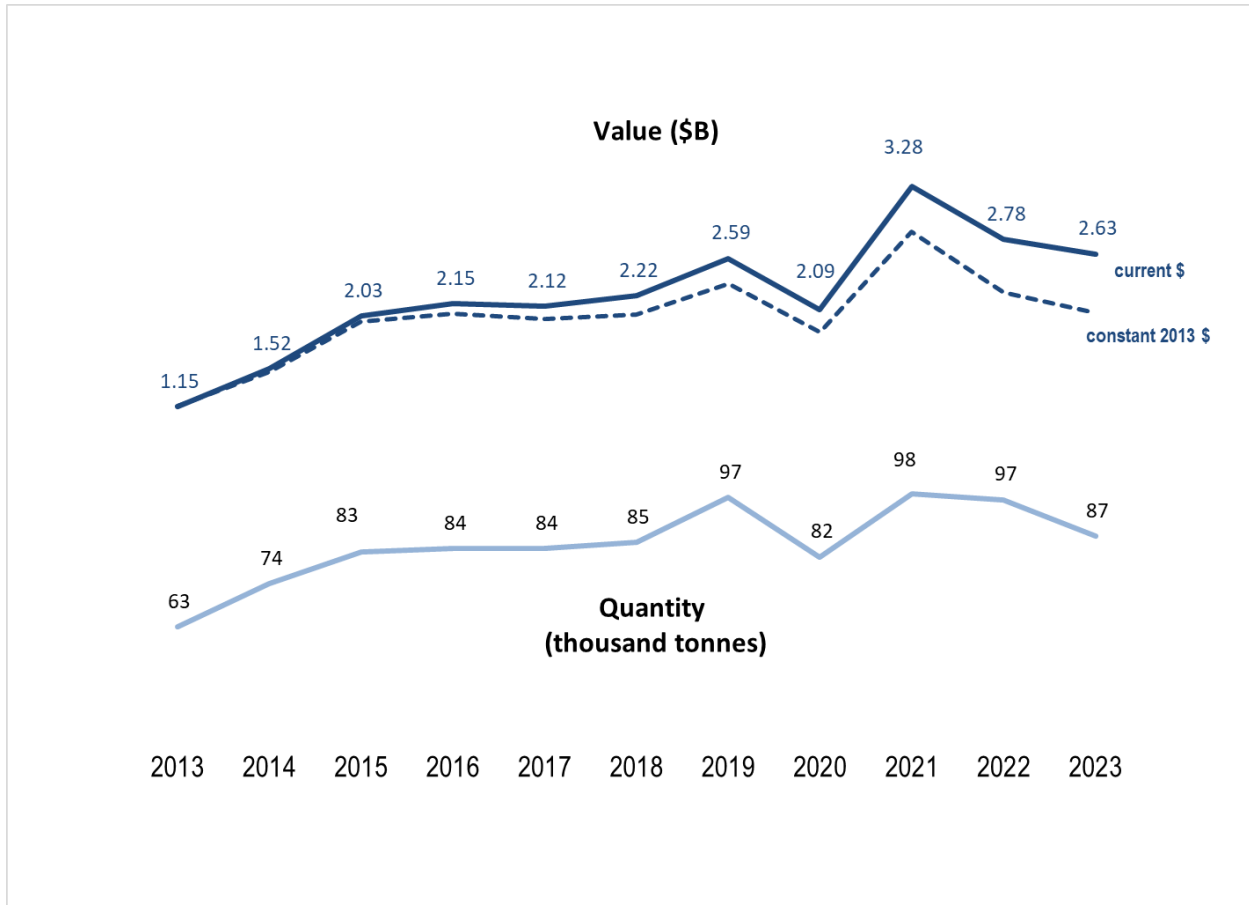
Lobster

Lobster made up 35 per cent of Canada's seafood exports in 2023, a number similar to the previous year (33%). Lobster exports consisted principally of live (47% by value), frozen whole or in pieces (36%), and prepared (17%, in cans or frozen). By volume, the main lobster exporting provinces were Nova Scotia (51.2 thousand tonnes), New Brunswick (22.2 thousand tonnes), and Prince Edward Island (7.1 thousand tonnes). These three provinces were the source of 93 per cent of Canada's lobster exports in 2023, both by value and weight.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

After reaching a new high in 2021 - mainly due to increased quantities and prices in the American market - lobster exports in 2022 returned to the pre-pandemic trend marked by a gradual increase in both quantities and values (nominal and real) over the last decade. In 2023 exported value decreased 5 per cent (9% in real terms), the result of a 10 percent decrease in exported quantity coupled with a 6 per cent increase in prices (2% real growth).

Figure 10. Canada's Lobster Exports, 2013-2023



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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 60 per cent of the value of Canadian lobster exports in 2023. By value, Canada's lobster exports to the US consisted of live (29%), frozen whole or in pieces (45%), and prepared (26%, in cans or frozen). Although the US is Canada's largest market for live lobster, exports to the US also include a significant amount of lobster that was originally imported live from US fisheries, and then processed in Canada for return to the US market. A discussion of the integrated

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Canada/US lobster supply chain can be found in a 2017 report by the US International Trade Commission.⁸

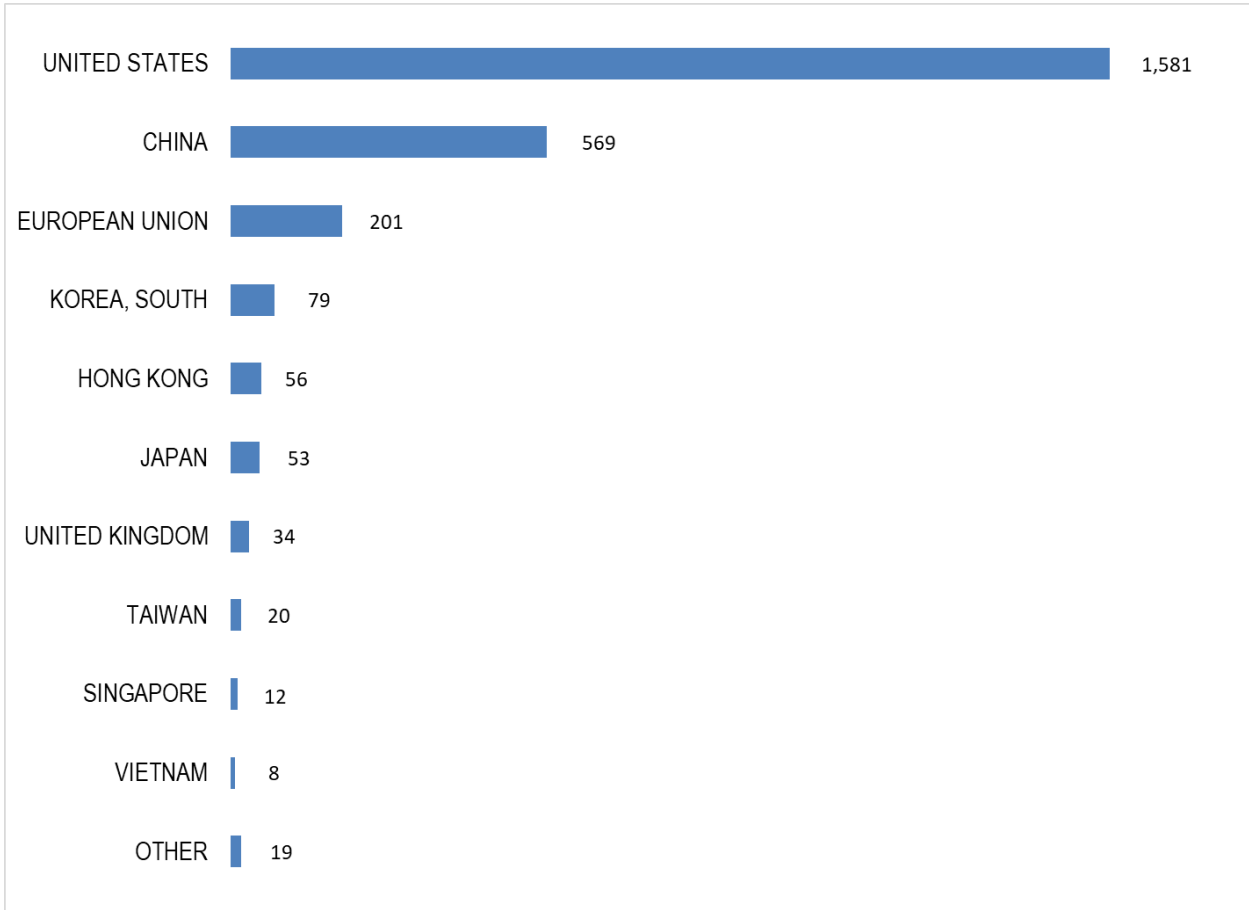
China remained the second-largest destination for Canada's exported lobster, receiving 22 per cent of Canada's exports by value in 2023. Over 90 per cent of lobster imported by China from Canada is live. In 2023, the value of live lobster exported to China increased by 14 per cent, supported by a 6 per cent increase in quantity and an 8 per cent increase in prices. The overall value of all lobster exports increased by a similar 14 per cent.

The third largest destination for Canadian lobster in 2023 was the European Union, accounting for 8 per cent of Canada's exports. Canada exported 35 per cent less lobster by value to the EU in 2023 than in 2022, mostly due to lower quantities (-34%). Live lobster represented about 52 per cent (by value) of lobster exports to the EU, while frozen lobster (in brine and other) accounted for 40 per cent. A sharp 56 per cent drop in the value of frozen exports explains most of the overall decline in lobster exports to the EU relative to 2022; live exports declined by 12 per cent. Prepared exports (canned, frozen, etc.) accounted for only 8 per cent of the exported value in 2023, but tripled in value relative to the previous year.

⁸ https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/working_papers/lobsters_industry_integration_final_0522_.pdf



Figure 11. Canada's Lobster Exports by Destination, 2023 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

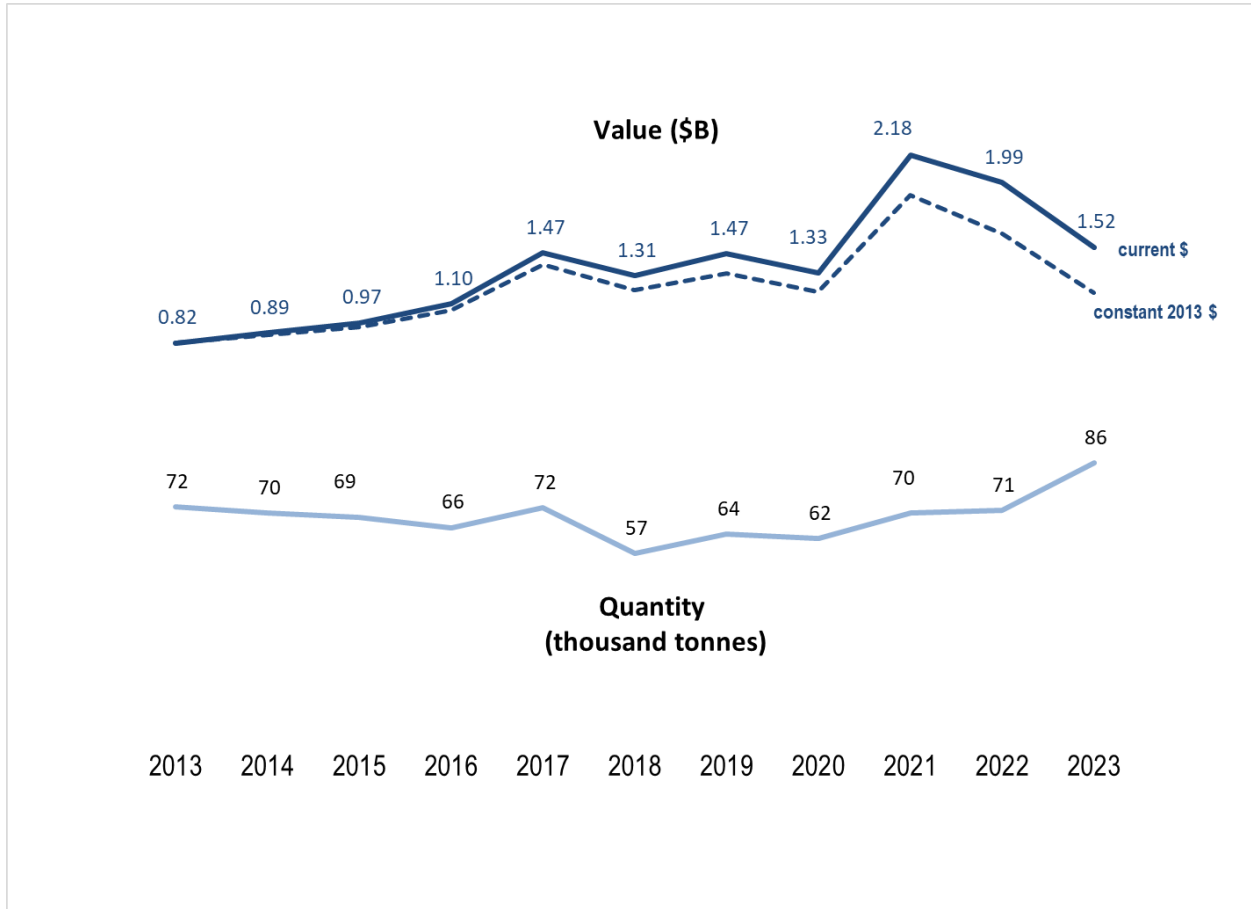
Crab

In 2023 crab exports, worth \$1.52B, accounted for a fifth of Canada's seafood exports by value. Of this, 68 per cent was identified as frozen snow crab, with another 13 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 \$615M. British Columbia, \$253M, Nova Scotia, \$227M, New Brunswick, \$221M, and Quebec, \$145M, are also significant exporters of crab. British Columbia exported mostly live Dungeness crab to China and the US, whereas the other provinces exported mostly snow crab.

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Figure 12. Canada's Crab Exports, 2013-2023



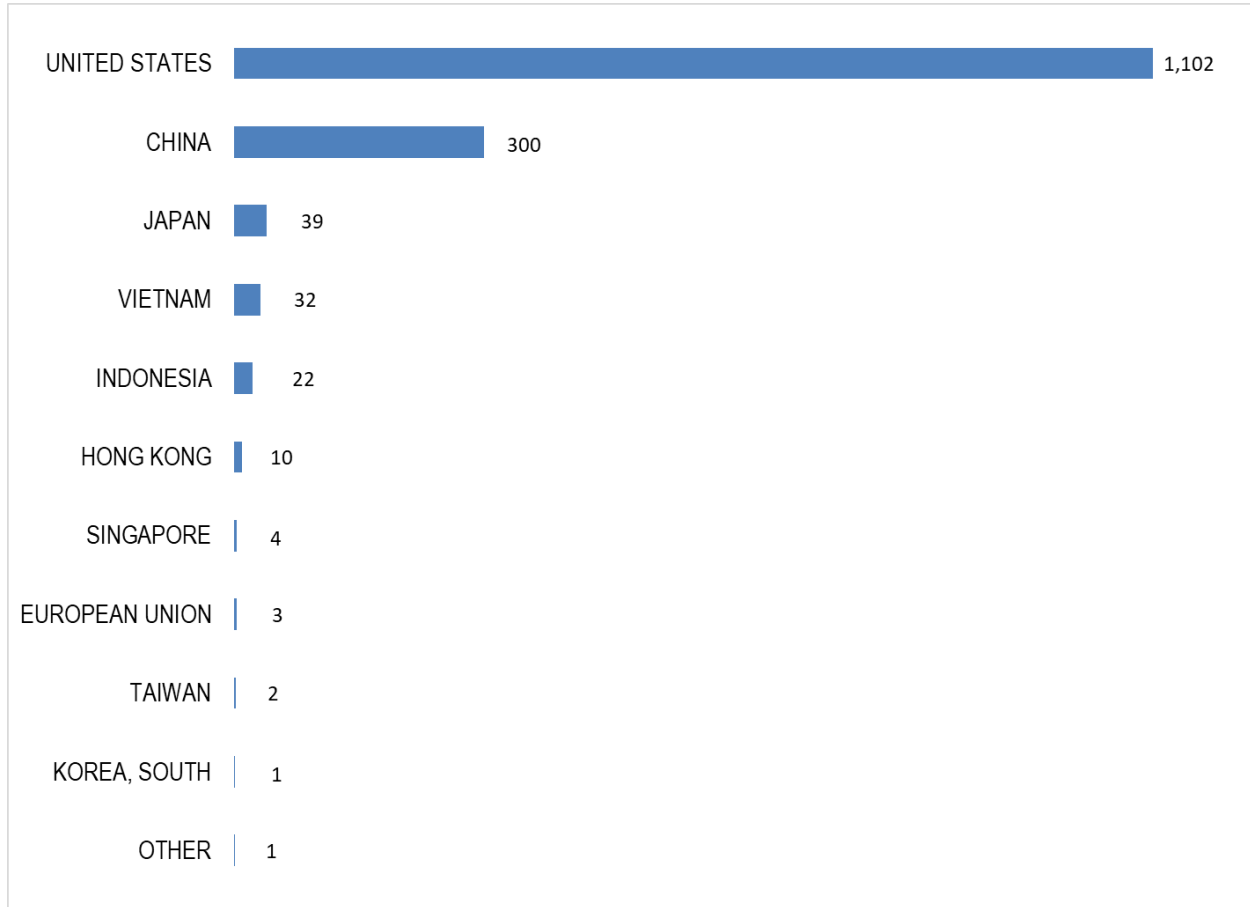
Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

Although crab exports reached a new high by weight in 2023 (22 percent growth relative to 2022), by value they were 24 per cent lower than the previous year, the largest decrease among Canada's top exports. This is due to weakness in prices, which decreased by 37 per cent overall. Exports identified specifically as frozen snow crab experienced the most pronounced changes, with 27 per cent higher quantity and 43 per cent lower prices than in the previous year.

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Figure 13. Canada's Crab Exports by Destination, 2023 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

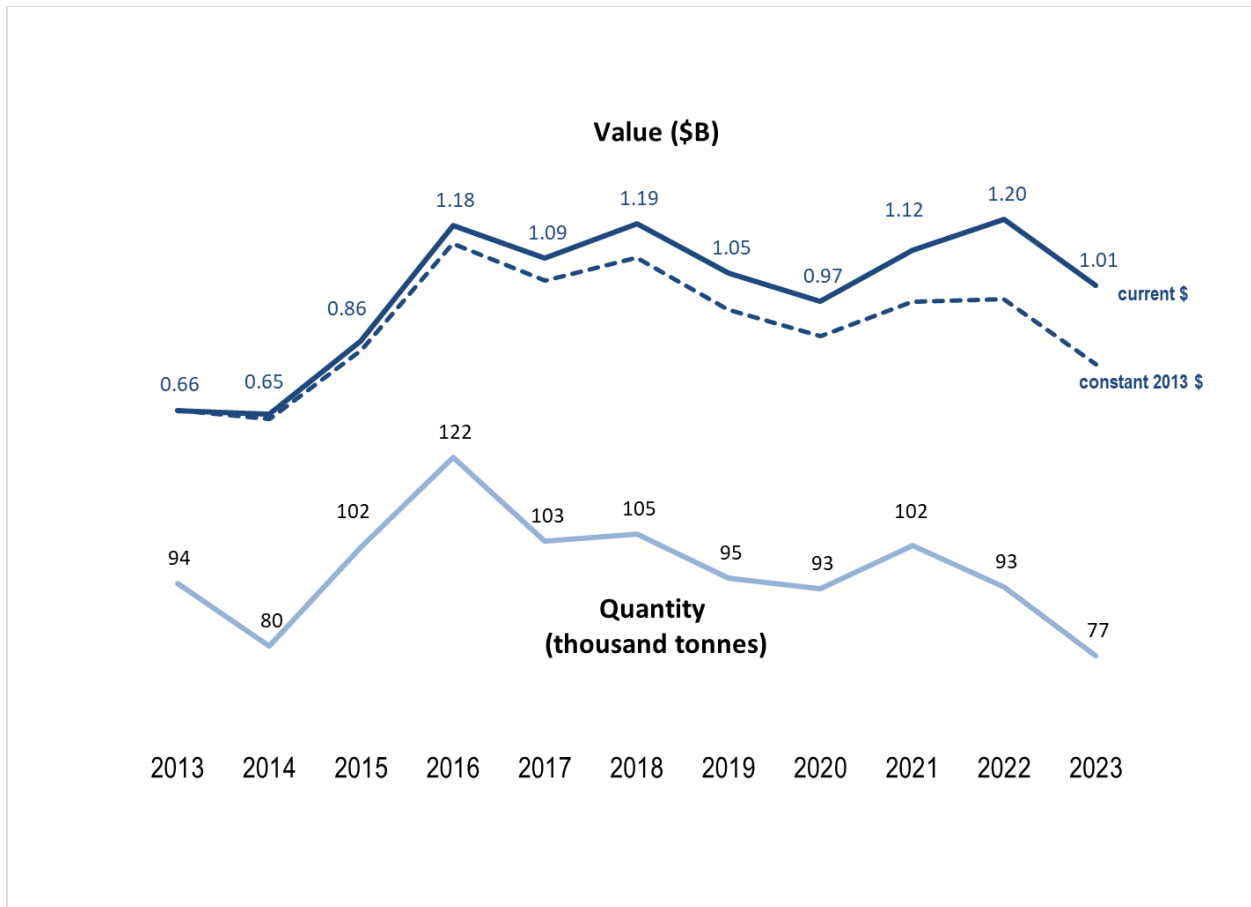
The United States remained Canada's largest market with 73 per cent of crab exports, followed distantly by China with 20 per cent, and Japan with 3 per cent of crab exports.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

Salmon

Canada exported \$1.01B worth of salmon in 2023, comprising 13 per cent of total seafood exports. Of this, 80 per cent was farmed Atlantic salmon, a proportion in line with its decade-long average.

Figure 14. Canada's Salmon Exports, 2013-2023

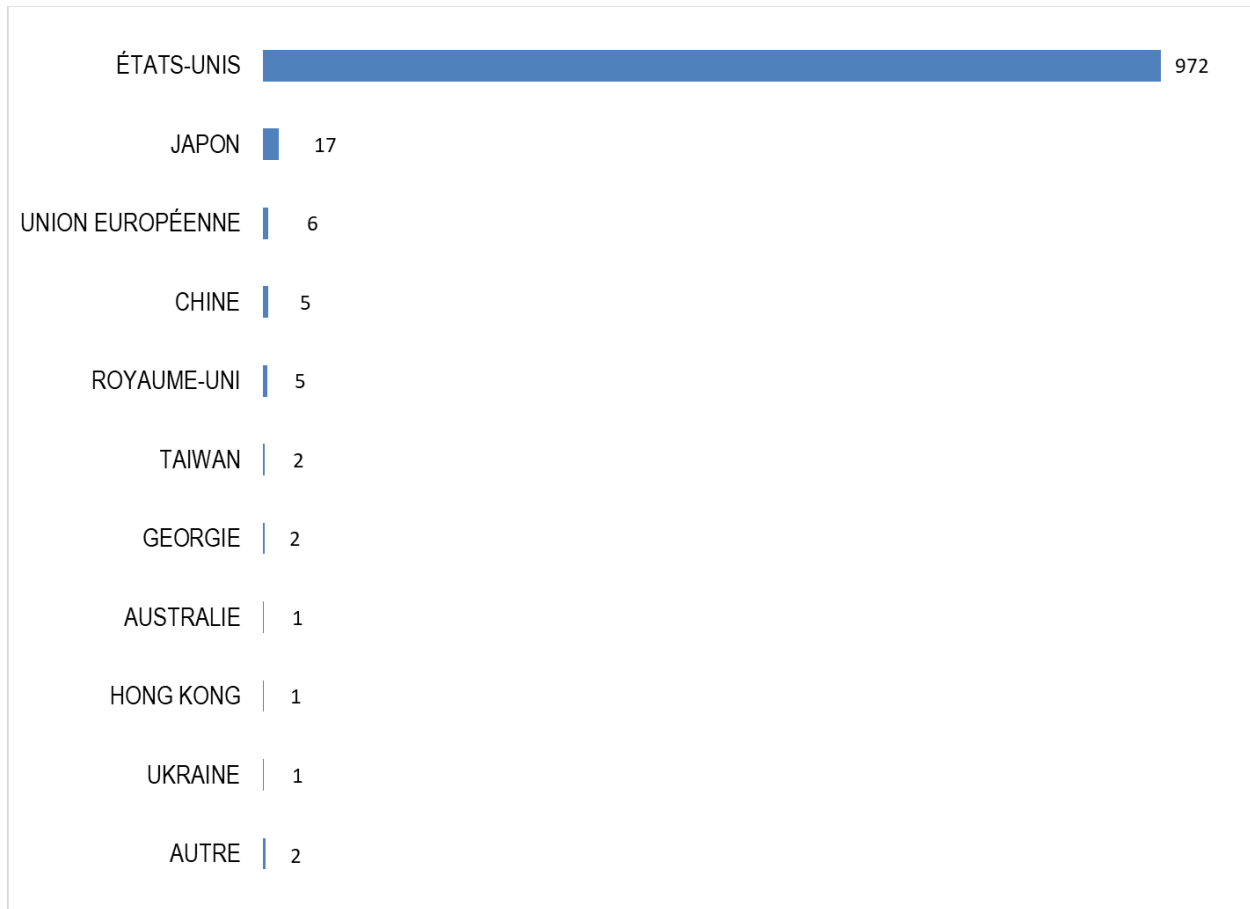


Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

The total value of salmon exports decreased by 16 per cent in 2023 (19% in real terms) compared to 2022, the result of a 17 per cent drop in exported quantity and a price that increased 1 per cent (decreased 2.5% in real terms). British Columbia exported salmon worth \$547M, while New Brunswick exported \$327M. These two provinces accounted for 86 per cent of Canada's salmon exports. The United States received 96 per cent of Canada's salmon exports.

Figure 15. Canada's Salmon Exports by Destination, 2023 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

Other Species

In 2023 species other than lobster, crab, and salmon, made up just 32 per cent of the value of Canada's seafood exports. Of these species, shrimp, scallop and halibut were the next most valuable exports.

In 2023 shrimp and prawn were mainly exported from Newfoundland and Labrador (\$157M), Nova Scotia (\$156M), and British Columbia (\$98M). They were mainly destined for China (\$262M), the EU (\$67M), and the US (\$37M). The majority (88%) of Canadian shrimp exported in 2023 consisted of frozen cold-water shrimps, a proportion essentially unchanged from 2022.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

Most 2023 scallop exports were from Nova Scotia (88%, \$229M). They were mainly destined for the United States (\$183M) and the EU (\$57M).

Canadian exports of halibut were mainly from Nova Scotia (\$128M), British Columbia (\$53M), and Newfoundland and Labrador (\$49M). They were mainly destined for the United States (\$198M) and China (\$34M). Halibut exports consisted of both fresh (77%) and frozen (23%) halibut.

Table 2. Canada's Top Fish and Seafood Exports by Species, 2023

Species	2023 Value (\$M)	Change in Value* (%)	Change in Quantity (%)	Change in Price* (%)	Share of Exports (%)
LOBSTER	2,632	-5 (-9)	-10	6 (2)	35
CRAB	1,516	-24 (-27)	22	-37 (-40)	20
SALMON	1,014	-16 (-19)	-17	1 (-3)	13
SHRIMP, PRAWN	441	1 (-3)	-7	9 (5)	6
SCALLOP	261	14 (9)	3	11 (6)	3
HALIBUT	242	-1 (-5)	-2	1 (-3)	3
CLAM	150	15 (11)	13	2 (-2)	2
HERRING	131	-10 (-13)	-3	-7 (-10)	2
COD	86	8 (4)	3	5 (1)	1
OYSTER	83	-4 (-7)	-11	8 (4)	1
OTHER	1,053	-4 (-7)	-8	5 (1)	14
Total	7,609	-9.6 (-13)	-5	-4.8 (-8.3)	100

*Numbers in parentheses are percent changes in real value or price.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Province and Territory

Although the real value of exports at the national level fell by 13 per cent overall in 2023 relative to 2022, this decline was not uniformly distributed among provinces.

With a 10 per cent drop in real value, the top exporting province of Nova Scotia fared best among major exporting provinces. This decline was the result of a 3 per cent drop in quantities and a 7 per cent drop in average real prices. The other Atlantic Provinces, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island, all experienced declines between 12 and 15 per cent relative to the previous year.

British Columbia exports decreased by 17 per cent in real terms, a result of the sharpest quantity drop (-19%) among all provinces and territories, only partially offset by an average real price increase (2%). Quebec experienced the most pronounced decrease in real value (-24%) among all provinces and territories, as the result of a 27 per cent drop in average real prices, coupled with a 4 per cent increase in quantities.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

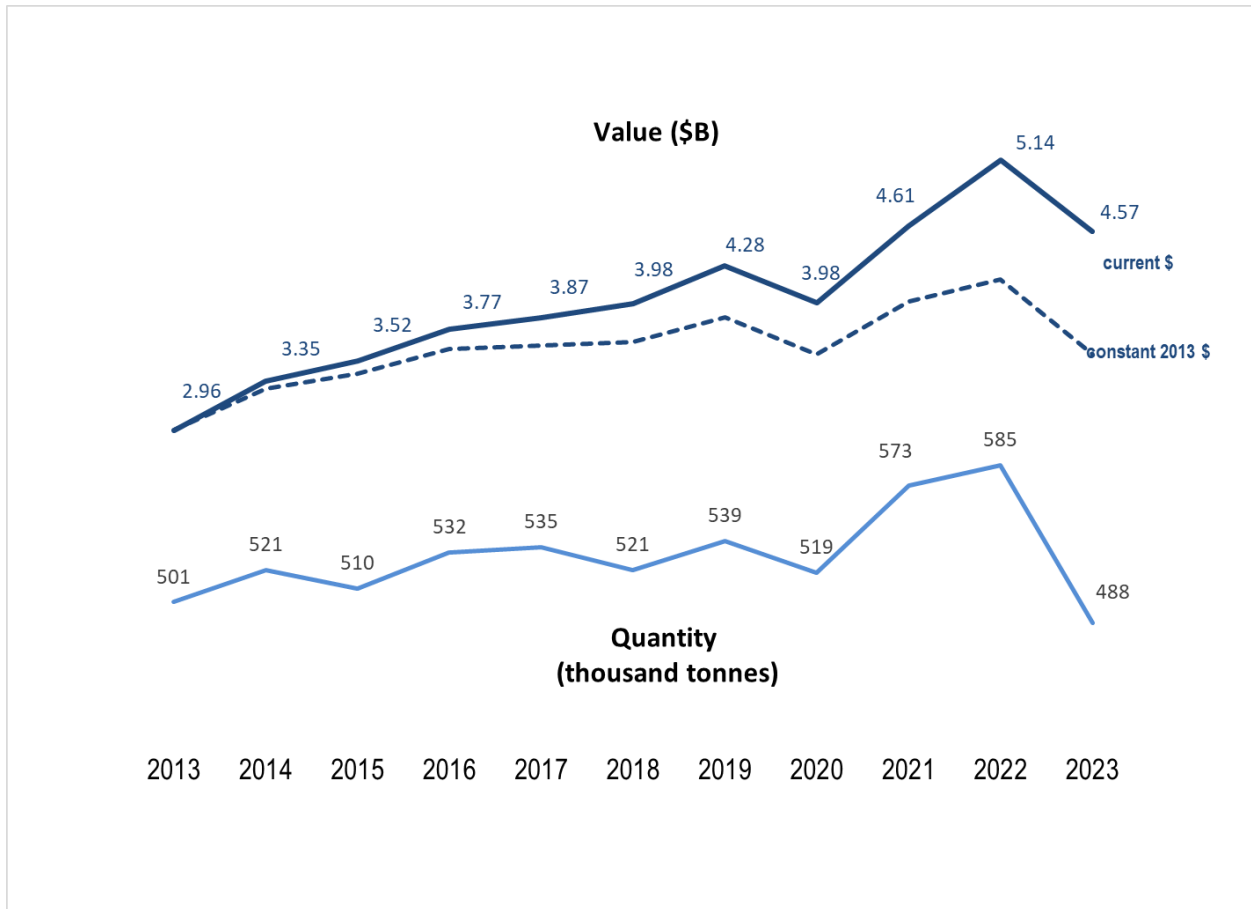
Table 3. Canada's Fish and Seafood Exports by Province and Territory, 2023

Province	Value (\$M)	Quantity (thousand tonnes)	Species	Share of Exports
NOVA SCOTIA	2,447	149	LOBSTER	52.3%
			SCALLOP	9.4%
			CRAB	9.3%
NEW BRUNSWICK	1,682	102	LOBSTER	53.2%
			SALMON	19.5%
			CRAB	13.1%
BRITISH COLUMBIA	1,334	122	SALMON	41.0%
			CRAB	19.0%
			SHRIMP	7.4%
NEWFOUNDLAND	1,093	100	CRAB	56.3%
			SHRIMP	14.4%
			HALIBUT	4.5%
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	433	25	LOBSTER	61.2%
			CRAB	12.4%
			MUSSEL	9.9%
QUEBEC	342	17	LOBSTER	42.6%
			CRAB	42.4%
			SHRIMP	3.1%
OTHER	278	20	SALMON	11.2%
			WHITEFISH	7.2%
			PICKEREL	6.6%

Canada's Fish and Seafood Imports

In 2023 Canada imported \$4.57B of seafood. The main imports were salmon, shrimp and prawn, tuna, lobster, 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, 2013-2023



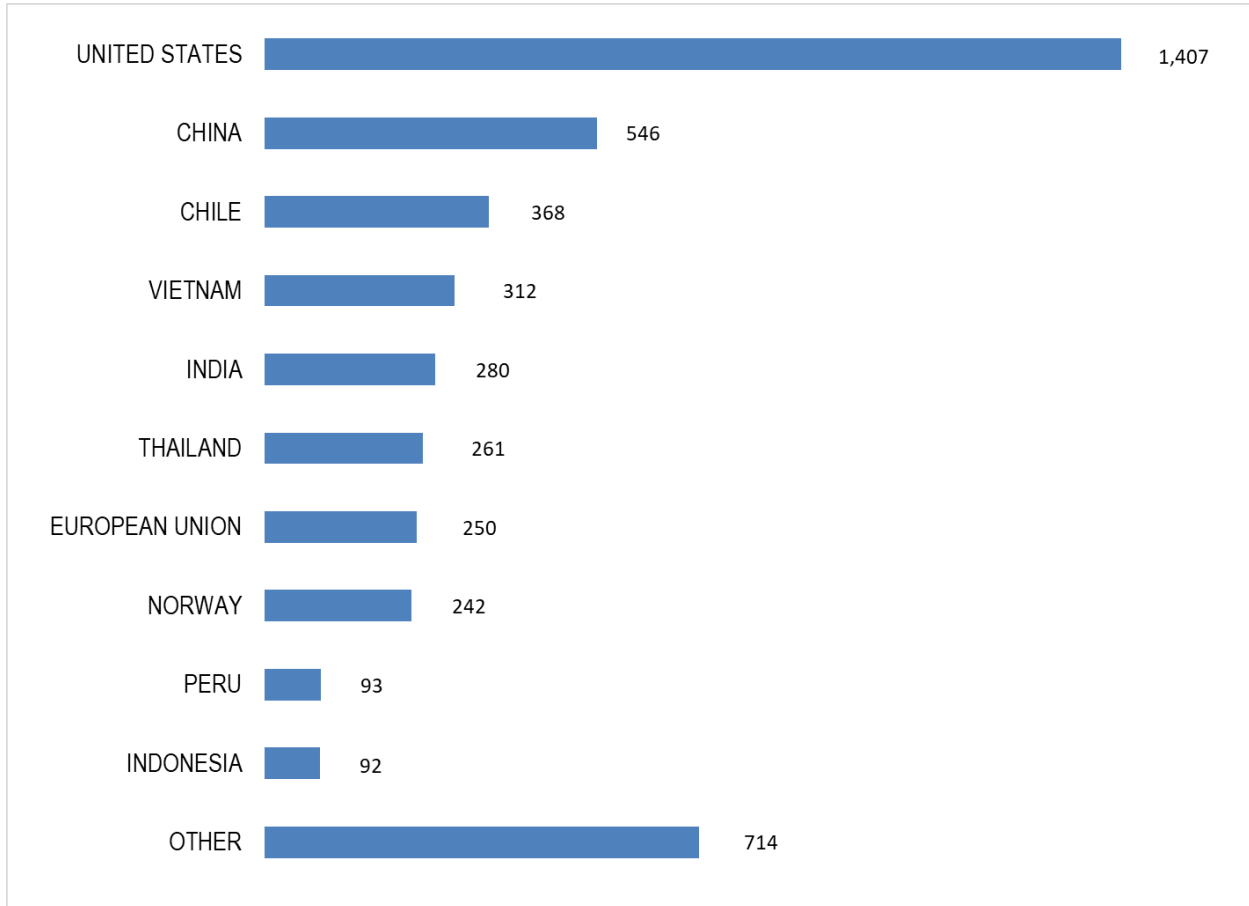
Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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 31 per cent, while China supplied 12 per cent, and Chile 8 per cent.

Figure 17. Canada's Fish and Seafood Imports by Origin, 2023 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

In 2023, Canadian fish and seafood imports from suppliers other than the top three were valued at \$2.24B, representing almost half (49%) of Canada's total fish and seafood import value.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

Table 4. Canada's Top Fish and Seafood Import Sources, 2023

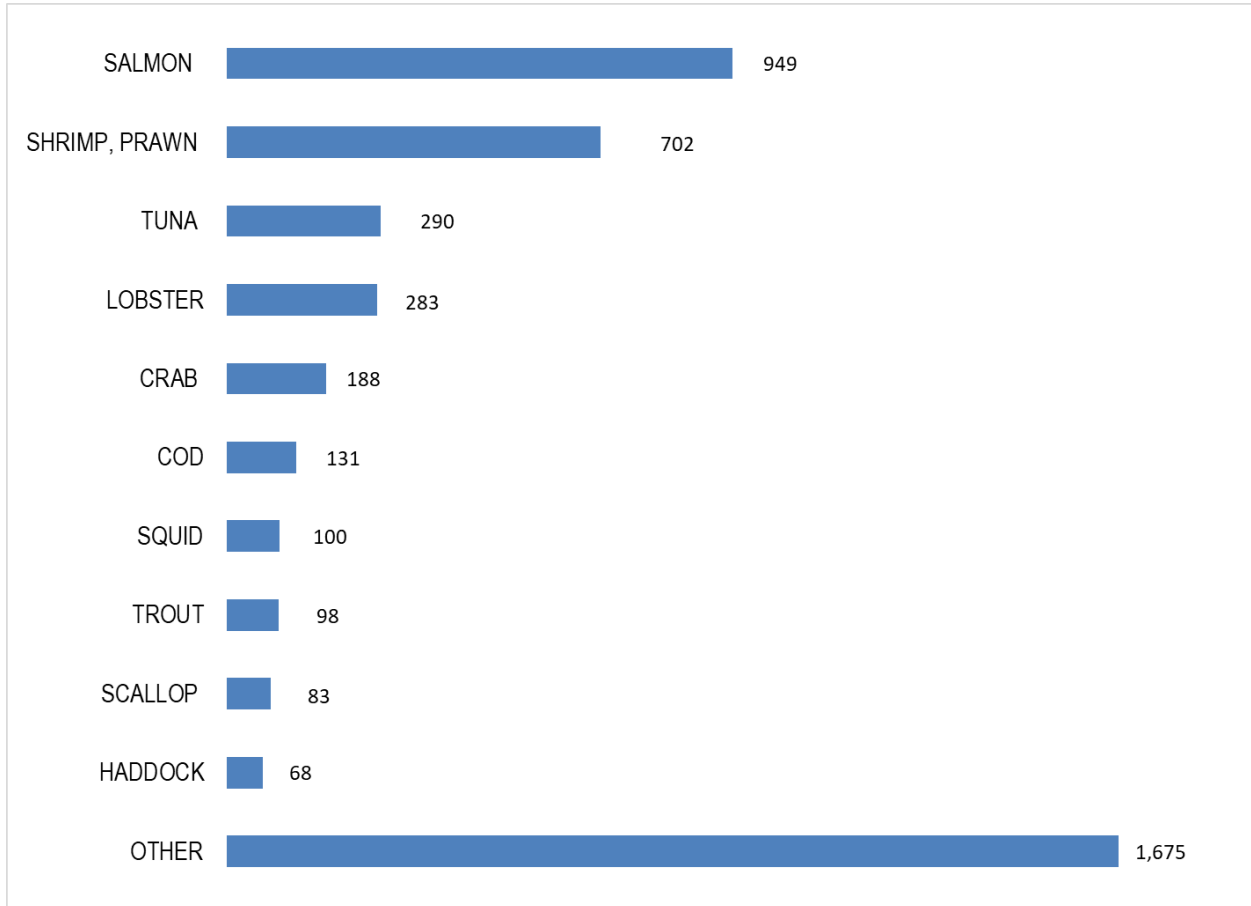
Country	2023 Value (\$M)	Change in Value* (%)	Change in Quantity (%)	Change in Price* (%)	Share of Imports (%)
UNITED STATES	1,407	-2 (-6)	-5	3 (-1)	31
CHINA	546	-22 (-25)	-23	1 (-3)	12
CHILE	368	17 (12)	8	8 (4)	8
VIETNAM	312	-34 (-36)	-20	-18 (-21)	7
INDIA	280	-2 (-6)	3	-5 (-9)	6
THAILAND	261	-22 (-25)	-23	2 (-2)	6
EU	250	-5 (-9)	-16	13 (9)	5
NORWAY	242	-8 (-11)	-30	33 (28)	5
PERU	93	-39 (-41)	-49	20 (15)	2
INDONESIA	92	-35 (-37)	-38	5 (1)	2
OTHER	714	-8 (-11)	-19	14 (10)	16
Total	4,565	-11.2 (-14.5)	-16.5	6.4 (2.4)	100

*Numbers in parentheses are percent changes in real value or price.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Imports by Species

The top imported species in 2023 were salmon, shrimp and prawn, tuna, and lobster, jointly making up 49 per cent of Canada's seafood imports.

Figure 18. Canada's Fish and Seafood Imports by Species, 2023 (\$M)



Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2024), EXIM [database], Ottawa. Accessed May 3, 2024.

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

In 2023, salmon made up 21 per cent of Canada's seafood imports. The main sources were the United States (\$409M), Chile (\$328M), and Norway (\$96M), supplying 88 per cent of salmon imports. This was primarily salmon fillets, either fresh (32%) or frozen (22%).

Shrimp and prawn comprised 15 per cent of seafood imports in 2023. The main sources were India (\$258M), Vietnam (\$163M), and China (\$78M), supplying 71 per cent of shrimp imports. Most shrimp imported to Canada is frozen cultured shrimp.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

Tuna constituted 6 per cent of seafood imports in 2023. The main sources were Thailand (\$152M), the EU (\$47M), Vietnam (\$37M), and the United States (\$12M). Most of it was imported as canned tuna (54%).

Another 6 per cent of imports consisted of lobster, and the US was the source for almost all (99%) lobster imports. Imports not only allow Canadians to enjoy a more diverse range of seafood products, but they also support value-adding seafood industries. Such is the case in New Brunswick, which accounted for 94 per cent of lobster imports in 2023, much of which was processed and exported.

Table 5. Canada's Top Fish and Seafood Imports by Species, 2023

Species	2022 Value (\$M)	Change in Value* (%)	Change in Quantity (%)	Change in Price* (%)	Share of Imports (%)
SALMON	949	-7 (-10)	-4	-2 (-6)	21
SHRIMP, PRAWN	702	-25 (-27)	-17	-9 (-13)	15
TUNA	290	-18 (-21)	-24	8 (4)	6
LOBSTER	283	9 (5)	-12	24 (20)	6
CRAB	188	-3 (-7)	19	-19 (-22)	4
COD	131	-13 (-16)	-8	-6 (-9)	3
SQUID	100	-35 (-37)	-33	-3 (-7)	2
TROUT	98	7 (3)	-8	16 (12)	2
SCALLOP	83	-7 (-10)	-12	6 (2)	2
HADDOCK	68	-40 (-42)	-48	15 (11)	1
OTHER	1,675	-6 (-10)	-18	14 (10)	37
Total	4,565	-11.2 (-14.5)	-16.5	6.4 (2.4)	100

*Numbers in parentheses are percent changes in real value or price.

Overall the value of Canada's fish and seafood imports fell by 11 per cent in 2023 relative to the previous year. The decline was 14.5 per cent in real terms, composed of a 16.5 per cent drop in quantity and a 2.4 per cent increase in real average price.

Canada's Fish and Seafood Trade in 2023

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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