Lobster Imports and Exports

Lobster connects Maine to the world. Maine lobsters are eaten locally, shipped to other parts of the country, and exported internationally—primarily as live lobsters.

Significant insight into the lobster trade provided by the Maine Lobster Dealers’ Association.

Over the past decade, lobster landings in Maine have doubled. During this time, lobster buyers and dealers grew the supply chain, infrastructure, and markets. Global trade relationships increasingly matter in the industry’s ability to grow its markets and play an important role in keeping lobster prices relatively stable.

Maine lobster travels all over the world. A Maine lobster could cross more than four borders before reaching its final destination on someone’s dinner plate. For example, a lobster landed on the Stonington dock could be exported to Canada, processed, and re-imported back to Maine, then travel south to Boston, where it could be shipped to Asia. In this process, the Maine brand is obscured.

More than a quarter of Maine’s total lobster landings by value in 2018 came from these top three ports.

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 WHY THIS MATTERS

U.S. LOBSTER LANDINGS, 2017

77% MAINE $423 million

8% OTHER STATES $47 million

15% MASSACHUSETTS $62 million

TOTAL U.S. LOBSTER EXPORTS, JULY 2017-JUNE 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Live</th>
<th>Processed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>$105.9 million</td>
<td>$86.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>$94.6 million</td>
<td>$182.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of Asia</td>
<td>$136.5 million</td>
<td>$131.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>$249.1 million</td>
<td>$118.9 million</td>
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Exports to Europe declined due to a trade agreement between the EU and Canada.

Exports to China have declined since tariffs were imposed in July 2018, falling from 27% of total exports to 15%.

**TRADE**