

decrease in sales. Crab, including snow crab, is such a species. However, the increase in popularity of snow crab as an ordinary home consumption item following the price decrease compensated for the decrease in consumption in the food service sector.

- The production in the United States in 1992 was approximately 90,000 metric tons. More than 30,000 metric tons were consumed in the United States and approximately 60,000 metric tons were exported to Japan.
- The increase in catches of both spring and summer crab in Canada led to an excellent increase in exports to Japan from 7,600 mt in 1991 to 9,300 mt in 1992, a 22.4% increase.
- Affected by the low domestic price of Alaskan snow crab, the price of Canadian snow crab, especially the price of L-size went down considerably (from Yen 1,350-1,450 in 1991 to Yen 1,000-1,250 in 1992.)
- Imports from Russia increased from 9,600 mt in 1991 to 11,439 mt in 1992. While quality improvements have been seen, Russian products without Japanese technicians are generally said to be still of low quality.
- The 1993 import price of Alaskan snow crab is reported to have been settled at US\$2.40 (brine bulk, per pound, FOB). The domestic price from importers derived from this import price is said to be around Yen 850 per kg, which is higher than the starting price for 1992 Alaskan snow crab by Yen 130-150 per kg.