

Per capita consumption of fresh and frozen products was 10.2 pounds, an increase of 0.3 pounds from 1992. Fresh and frozen finfish accounted for 6.3 pounds, while fresh and frozen shellfish consumption was 3.9 pounds per capita. Consumption of canned fish and seafood products was 4.5 pounds per capita in 1993, a decrease of 0.1 pounds from 1992. Per capita statistics on surimi consumption were not available, however, surimi cold storage holdings in 1993 reached a high of 36.2 million pounds on May 31, and were at a low of 23.7 million pounds on December 31.

With the exception of several live lobster distributors in the Northeast, who naturally considered lobster very important to their business, the majority of U.S. brokers, distributors, wholesalers, restaurants, supermarkets and seafood specialty stores did not consider lobster to be particularly important. In the United States, the 1-1½ pound live lobster is the most popular size preference overall with restaurants, supermarkets and seafood specialty stores. Because of the need to stay within a certain unit meal menu price, lobster size is a critical factor for U.S. restaurants. Retail outlets, on the other hand, are interested in larger sized lobsters if pricing is attractive.

As of the late months of 1994, Massachusetts lobstermen are getting US\$2.50 to US\$2.70 per pound. An unknown factor facing U.S. lobster prices is the Canadian season. If catches are high, prices may dip, however, if prices decrease, Canadian landings may be held back from the market. Presently, United States "pounders" in Maine continue to buy lobsters to hold for early 1995 when prices rise. Canadian processors are buying U.S. lobster to supply their frozen tail and canned meat markets. United States dealers are taking the culls and soft lobster at approximately US\$2.10 to US\$2.20 per pound, ex-vessel, and sending them to Canada for under US\$3.00 per pound.

Monthly Ex-Warehouse Prices for Frozen Lobster Tails

Origin Australia/Brazil {US\$/lb}

Month	1990	1990	1991	1991	1992	1992	1993	1993
	Aust.	Brazil	Aust.	Brazil	Aust.	Brazil	Aust.	Brazil
Jan	16.95	10.60	19.90	13.45	17.60	13.25	n/a	13.30
April	18.20	11.25	20.50	13.70	21.50	n/a	15.00	13.50
May	18.00	11.10	21.00	n/a	20.75	n/a	16.00	n/a
July	18.70	12.75	21.50	13.50	20.25	13.35	n/a	11.50
Sept	19.25	12.50	18.85	12.90	18.80	14.00	n/a	11.25
Nov	19.75	12.70	22.50	13.20	16.25	13.80	17.75	12.45
Dec	19.95	12.10	23.65	14.00	n/a	12.70	18.50	12.60

Source: INFOFISH Trade News

Monthly New York Wholesale Prices for 1-1½ Pound

Live American Lobster {US\$/lb}

Month	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Jan	11.50	n/a	13.00	14.88	14.32	10.14	12.65	13.09
April	11.20	14.00	9.50	19.29	12.13	14.11	n/a	17.64
May	9.00	13.80	n/a	12.13	8.71	11.58	13.75	11.57
July	10.20	12.00	11.80	9.92	11.57	11.58	11.00	9.92
Sept	12.50	13.00	13.50	14.30	10.91	11.03	11.00	11.57
Nov	12.00	13.50	14.88	12.67	11.57	12.40	10.00	9.92
Dec	n/a	13.50	14.88	12.12	10.47	10.45	9.35	12.13

Source: U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service

United States exports of fresh and frozen lobster in 1993 totalled 20.98 million pounds with an export value of US\$95.36 million. This represents a decrease from 1992, fresh and frozen lobster exports equalled 21.91 million pounds, valued at US\$103.48 million. Exports of fresh or frozen American lobster for 1993 were 8.97 million pounds, valued at US\$87.77 million; while U.S. exports of fresh or frozen lobster meat were 0.78 million pounds in 1993 valued at US\$522,000.