

OYSTER LANDINGS & TRADE UPDATE – 2022

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NOAA recently released their 2021 [landings data](#).¹ This document provides a summary of U.S. oyster landings and trade, with additional information about the Gulf Coast states. Data and figures can also be found [here](#).

2021 U.S. TOTALS

VOLUME: 23.28 MILLION POUNDS (17% INCREASE FROM 2020)

VALUE: \$183.90 MILLION (11% INCREASE FROM 2020)

AVG PRICE: \$7.90 PER POUND (5% DECREASE FROM 2020)

BY SPECIES

EASTERN (*C. VIRGINICA*)

- 19.20 million pounds (31% increase from 2020)
- \$159.85 million value (24% increase from 2020)
- \$8.32 per pound avg price (5% decrease from 2020)

PACIFIC (*C. GIGAS*)

- 4.08 million pounds (22% decrease from 2020)
- \$24.05 million value (34% decrease from 2020)
- \$5.90 per pound avg price (15% decrease from 2020)

BY REGION

ATLANTIC

- 7.02 million pounds (24% increase from 2020)
- \$88.06 million value (14% increase from 2020)
- \$12.55 per pound avg price (8% decrease from 2020)

GULF

- 12.18 million pounds (34% increase from 2020)
- \$71.78 million value (38% increase from 2020)
- \$5.89 per pound avg price (3% increase from 2020)

PACIFIC

- 4.08 million pounds (22% decrease from 2020)
- \$24.05 million value (34% decrease from 2020)
- \$5.90 per pound avg price (15% decrease from 2020)

¹ NOAA oyster landings are reported in pounds of meats (excludes shell weight). The dollar value of landings are ex-vessel (as paid to the fisherman at time of first sale) and are reported as nominal (current at the time of reporting) values. Additional information on NOAA landings data can be found [here](#). Dollar values are converted to real 2012 dollars using the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis GDP Implicit Price Deflator, found [here](#). Prices are implicit, calculated as total landings value in dollars divided by total landings in pounds.

U.S. LANDINGS

Total domestic landings are up 17% over last year, but still well below historical levels. Gains are driven by increased landings in the Atlantic and Gulf regions that offset losses in the Pacific region (Figure 1). The same trends are reflected in landings by species, as Atlantic and Gulf regions produce Eastern oysters (*C. virginica*) and the Pacific region produces Pacific oysters (*C. gigas*) (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Domestic oyster landings by region, million pounds.

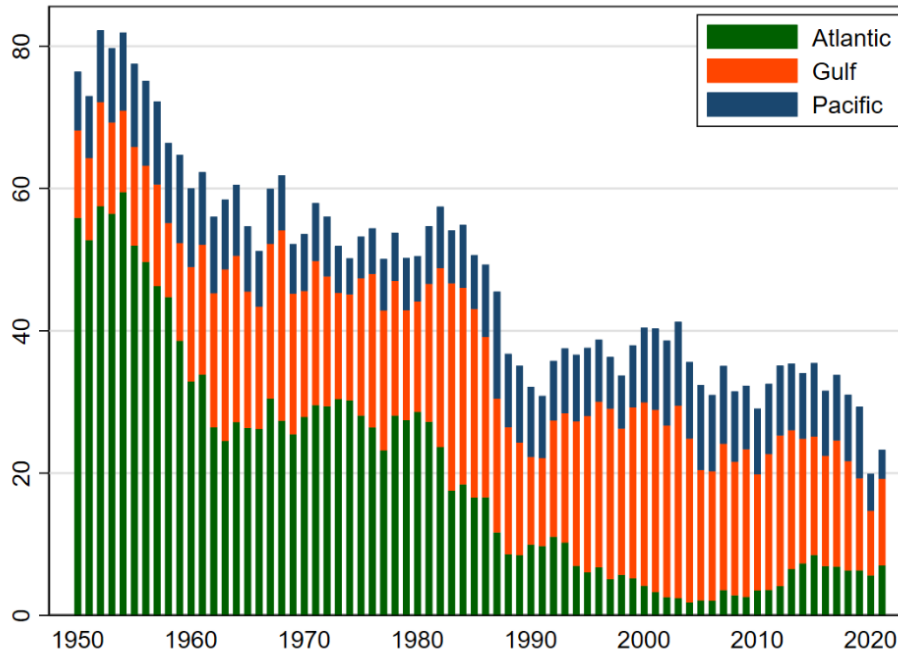
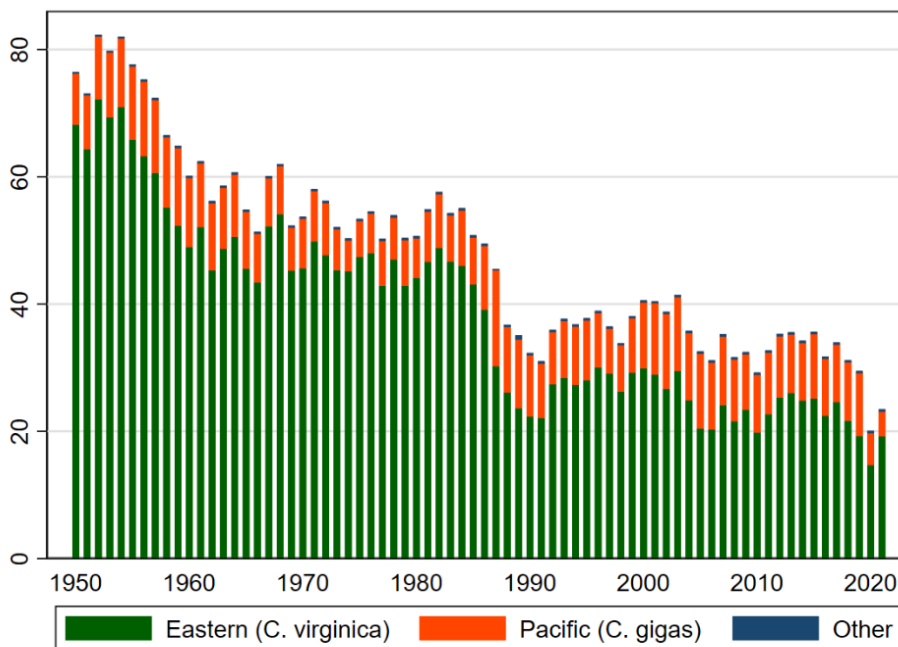


Figure 2. Domestic oyster landings by species, million pounds.



U.S. LANDINGS VALUE

Inflation-adjusted total landings value is up 11% over last year, but like landings, well below historical levels (Figures 3 & 4).

Figure 3. Domestic oyster landings value by region, \$ million.

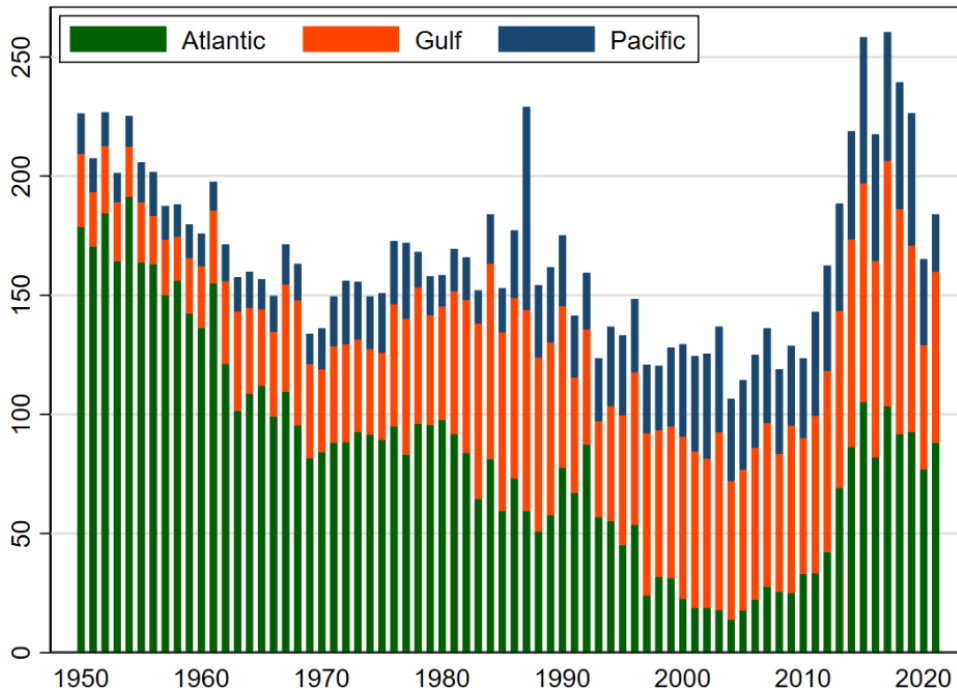
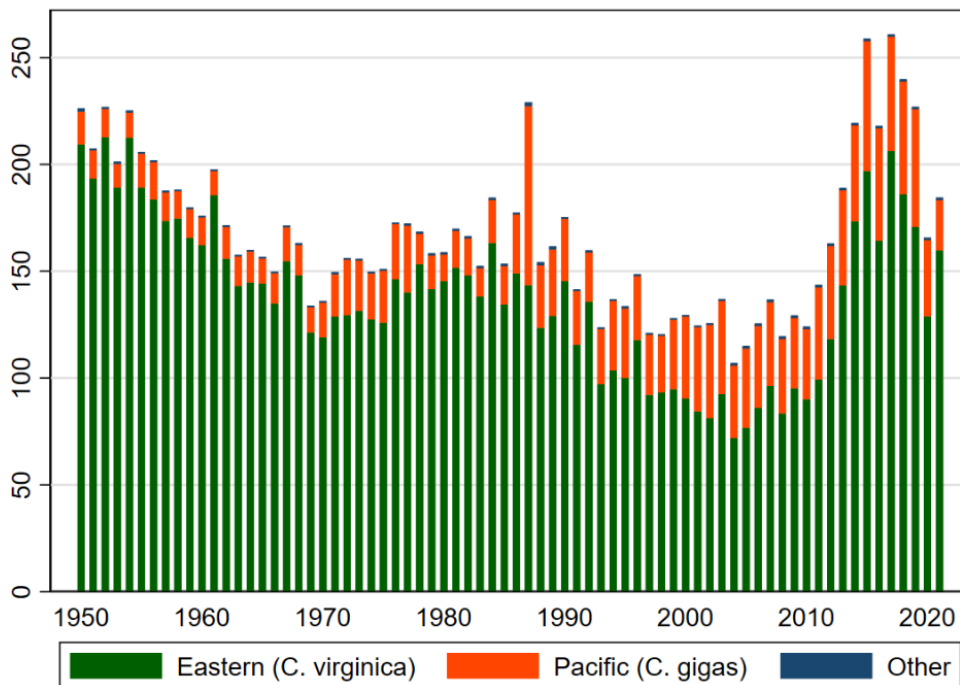


Figure 4. Domestic oyster landings value by species, \$ million.



TOP 5 STATES - LANDINGS

Texas is the leading producer thus far during this decade (2020-2021), with 10.98 million pounds (25% of total domestic landings), followed by Louisiana (9.08 million pounds, 21%), Washington (7.06 million pounds, 16%), Virginia (6.6 million pounds, 15%), then Maryland (2.33 million pounds, 5%). In the previous decade (2010-2019), Louisiana was the leading state (33%), followed by Washington (27%), Texas (13%), Virginia (10%), then Florida (4%).

Figure 5. Top 5 landings states, by decade.

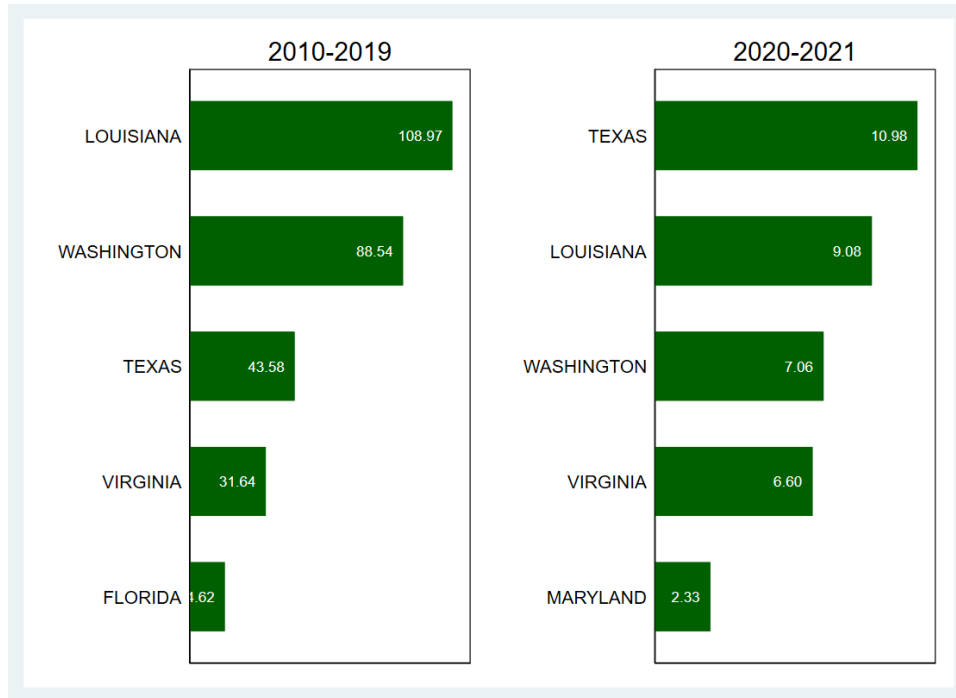
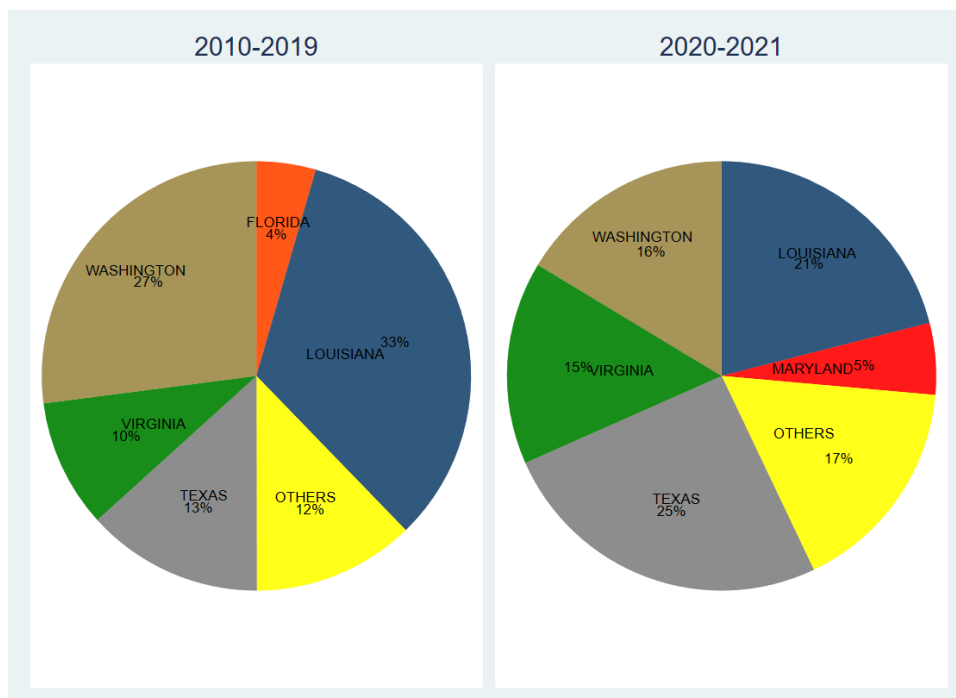


Figure 6. Shares of top 5 landings states and all other states combined, by decade.



TOP 5 STATES - VALUE

Louisiana is first in landings value during this decade (2020-2021), at \$60.54 million (17% of total value), followed by Virginia (\$58.86 million, 17%), Texas (\$53.33 million, 15%), Massachusetts (\$42.59 million, 12%), then Washington (\$39.31 million, 11%). In the previous decade (2010-2019), Louisiana was the leading state (27%), followed by Washington (20%), Virginia (13%), Texas (9%), then Massachusetts (9%).

Figure 7. Top 5 landings value states, by decade.

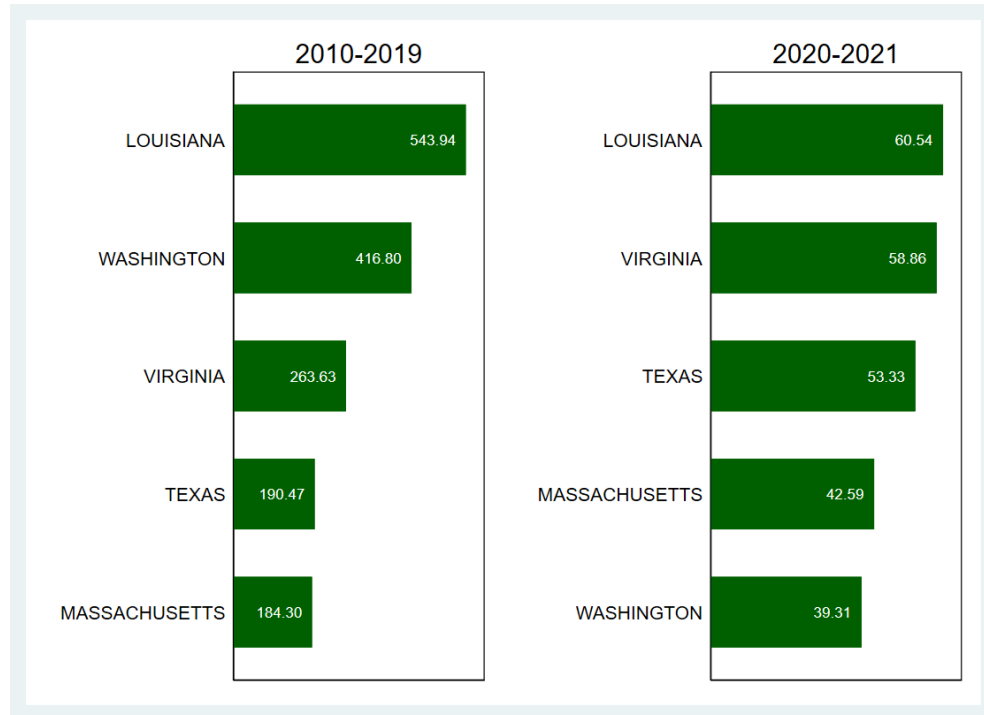
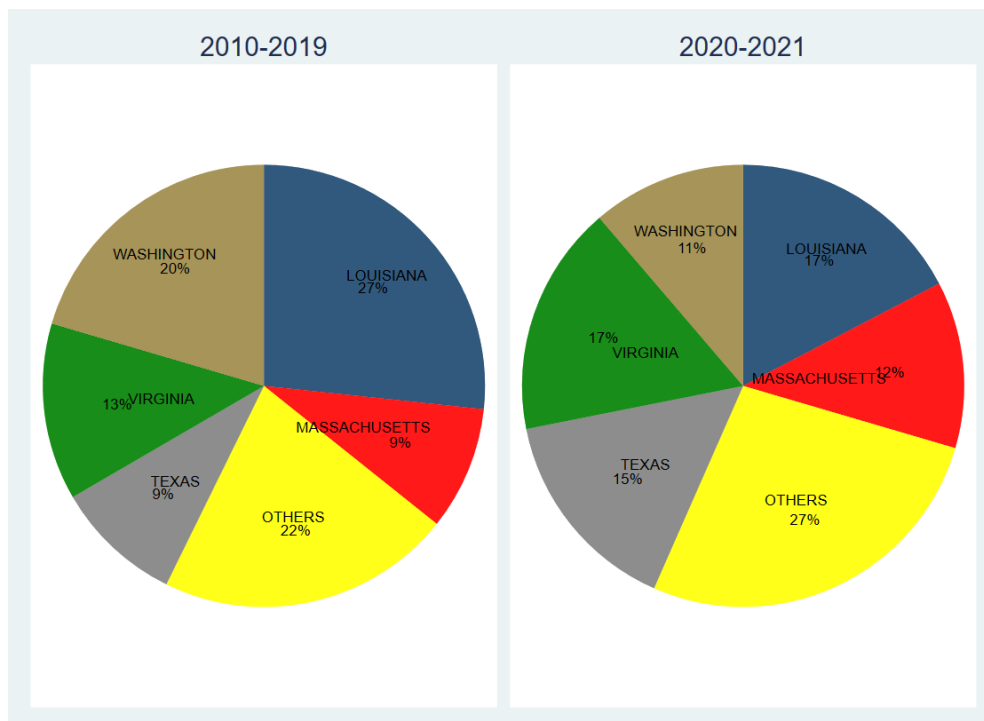


Figure 8. Shares of top 5 landings value states and all other states combined, by decade.



PRICES

Average inflation-adjusted dockside price are up slightly in the Gulf region (3% increase) and down in the Atlantic (8% decrease) and Pacific (15% decrease) regions. The overall historical trend is upward, though Atlantic prices have been falling the past three years. By species, the Eastern oyster price is down 5% (which is the combined effect of the Atlantic and Gulf regions) whereas the Pacific price is down 15%.

Figure 9. Inflation-adjusted implicit dockside price, \$ per pound, by region.

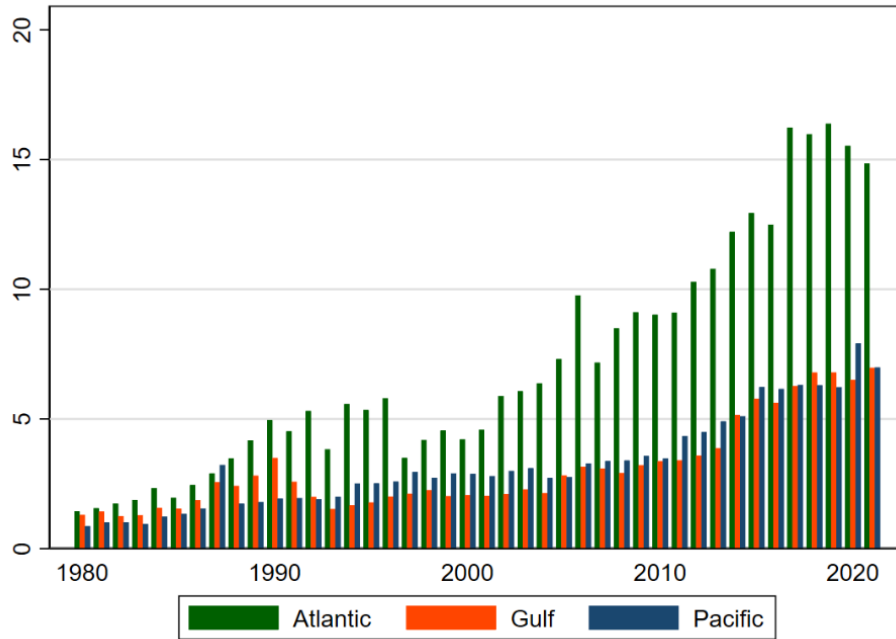
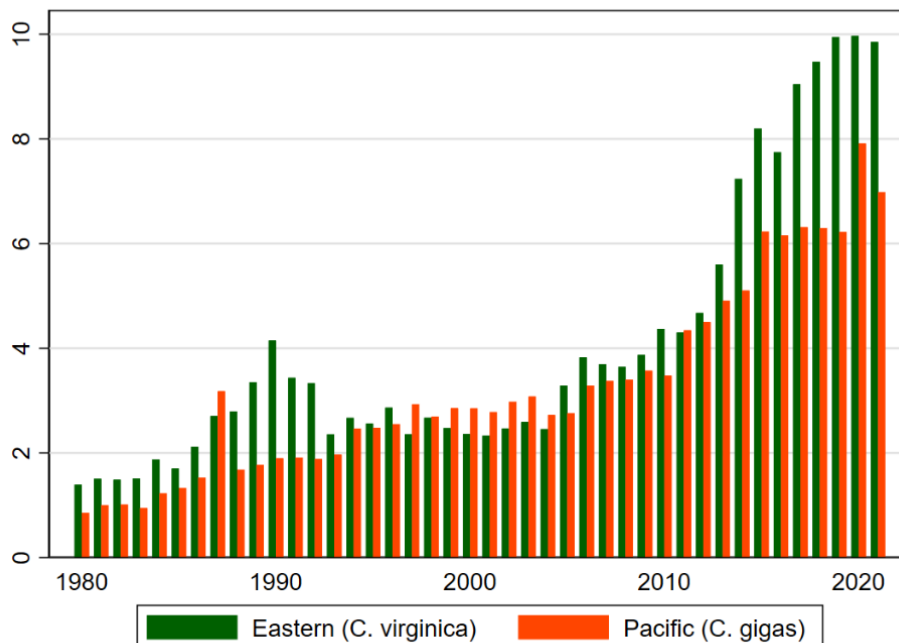


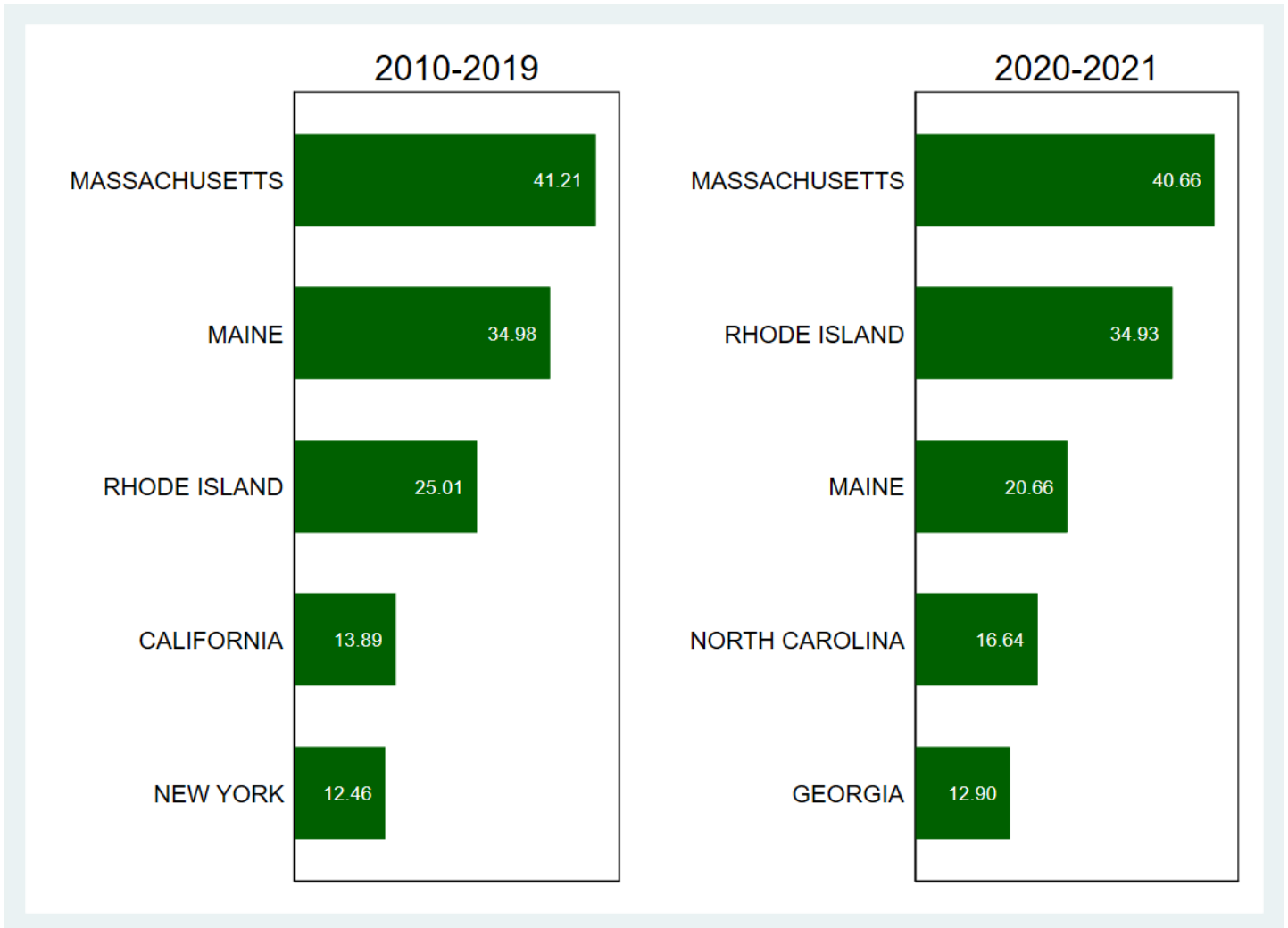
Figure 10. Inflation-adjusted implicit dockside price, \$ per pound, by species.



TOP 5 STATES - PRICE

Massachusetts has the highest average dockside price during 2020-2021, at \$40.66 per pound, followed by Rhode Island (\$34.93), Maine (\$20.66), North Carolina (\$16.64), then Georgia (\$12.90). In the previous decade (2010-2019), Massachusetts also had the top spot, followed by Maine, Rhode Island, California, then New York.

Figure 11. Top 5 states for average price, by decade.



GULF COAST STATES

2021 Landings

ALABAMA

0.34 million pounds (76% increase from 2020)

\$4.43 million value (107% increase from 2020)

\$12.83 per pound avg price (18% increase from 2020)

FLORIDA (GULF COAST)

0.29 million pounds (20% decrease from 2020)

\$1.35 million value (31% decrease from 2020)

\$4.65 per pound avg price (14% decrease from 2020)

LOUISIANA

5.90 million pounds (85% increase from 2020)

\$39.63 million value (90% increase from 2020)

\$6.72 per pound avg price (2% increase from 2020)

MISSISSIPPI

No reported landings in 2020 or 2021.

TEXAS

5.65 million pounds (6% increase from 2020)

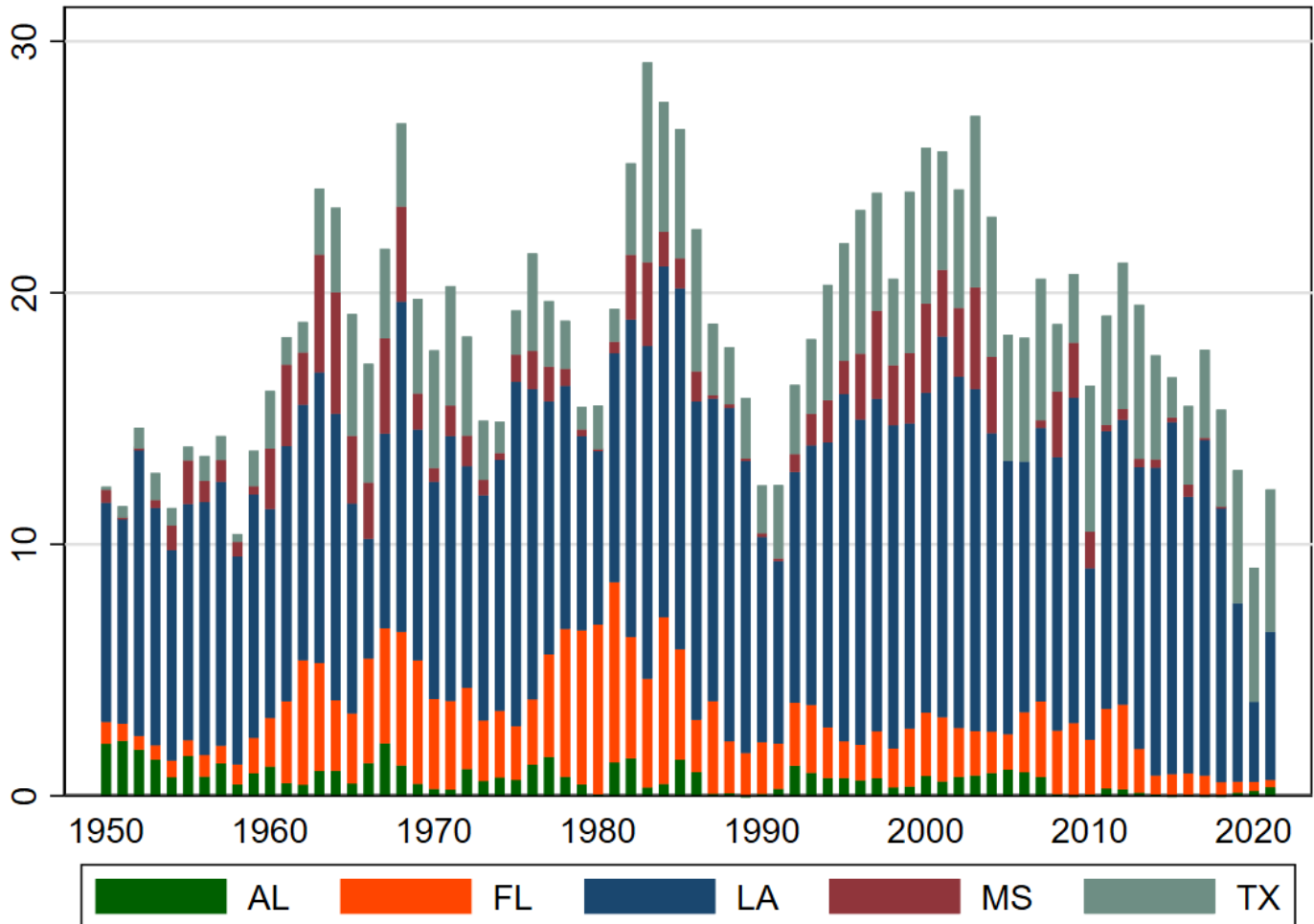
\$26.38 million value (2% decrease from 2020)

\$4.67 per pound avg price (8% decrease from 2020)

GULF COAST LANDINGS

Gulf Coast landings are up 34% over last year, but still well below historical levels. Gains are driven by increased landings in Louisiana, up 2.71 million pounds, an 85% increase over the state's 2020 landings. Texas landings were also up 0.32 million pounds, an 8% increase, as was Alabama, who added 0.15 million pounds over 2020, a 76% increase. Florida's Gulf Coast landings were down 0.07 million pounds, a 20% decrease from 2020 (Figure 12). Louisiana has regained the top landings spot over Texas. Mississippi reported no landings for the third straight year.

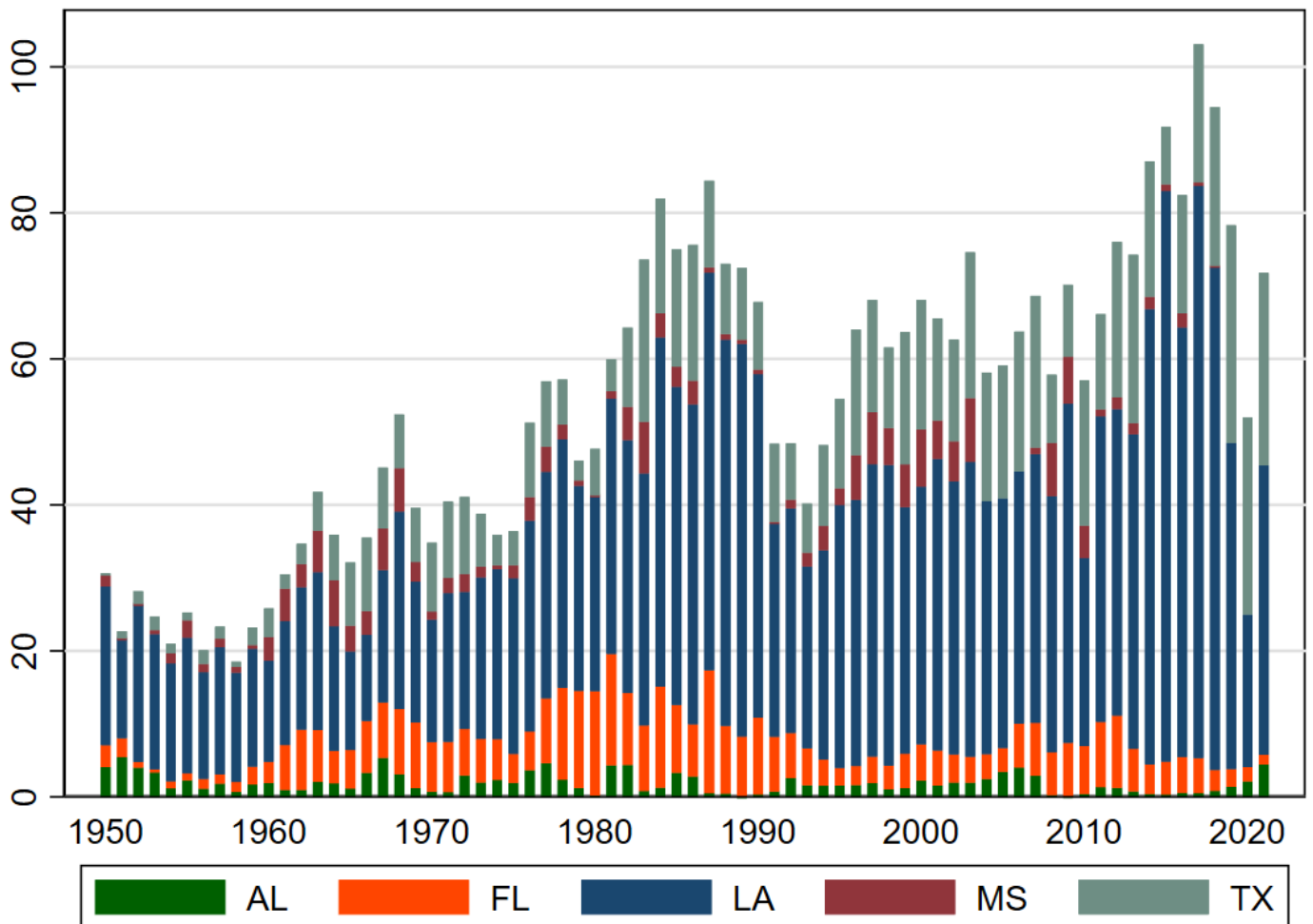
Figure 12. Gulf Coast oyster landings by state, million pounds.



GULF COAST LANDINGS VALUE

Gulf Coast landings value was \$78.71 million, up 38% over last year, recovering to a level near those achieved during the 1980s but still below those achieved during the 2010s, after adjusting for inflation. Louisiana contributed \$39.63 million (a 90% increase over 2020), Texas contributed \$26.38 million (2% increase), Alabama contributed \$4.43 million (107% increase), and Florida contributed \$1.35 million (31% decrease) (Figure 13).

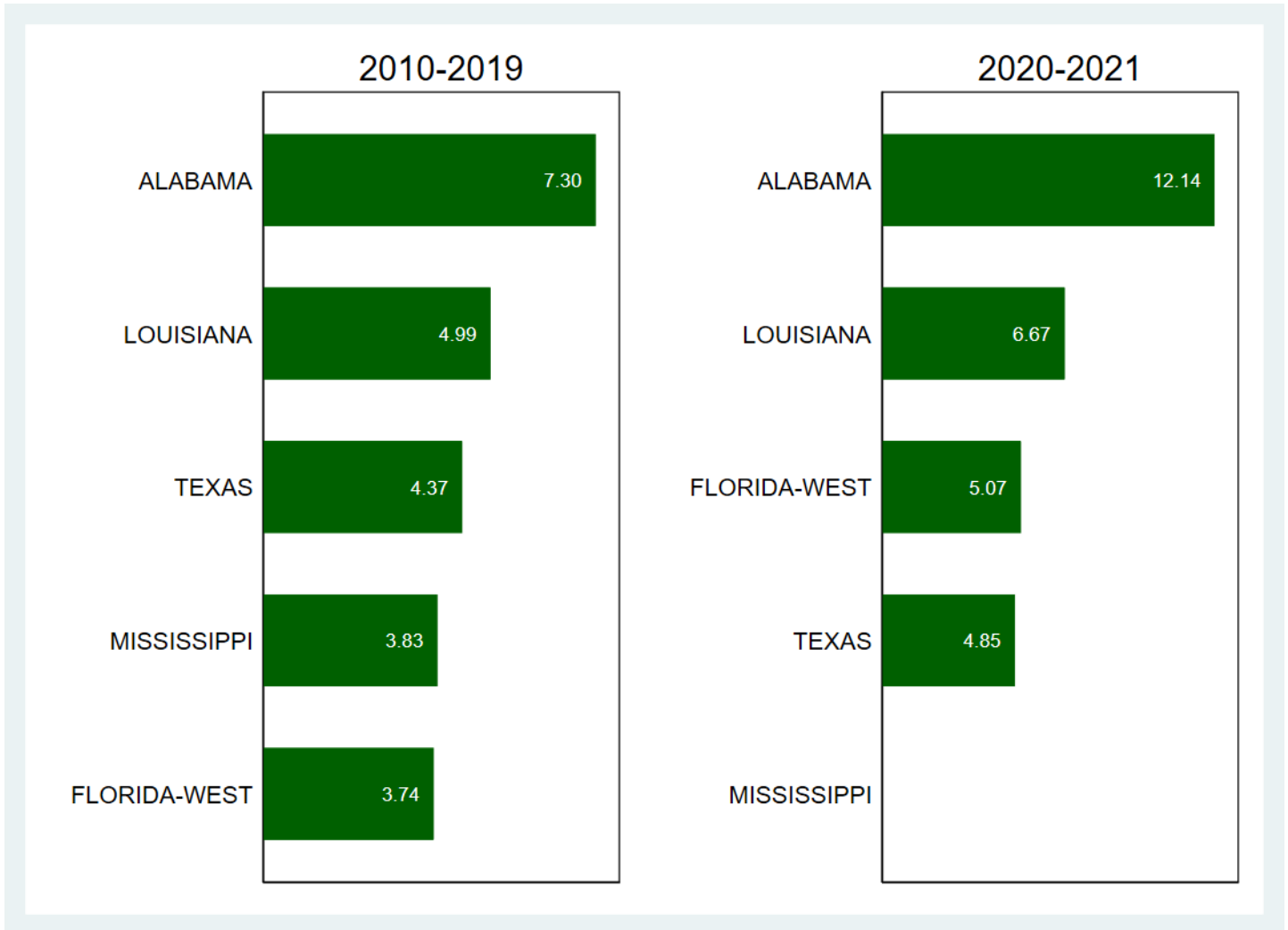
Figure 13. Gulf Coast oyster landings value by state, \$ million.



GULF COAST PRICES

Alabama has the highest average dockside price during 2020-2021, at \$12.14 per pound, followed by Louisiana (\$6.67), Florida (\$5.07), then Texas (\$4.85). In the previous decade (2010-2019), Alabama also had the top spot, followed by Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, then Florida.

Figure 14. Gulf Coast average prices, by decade.

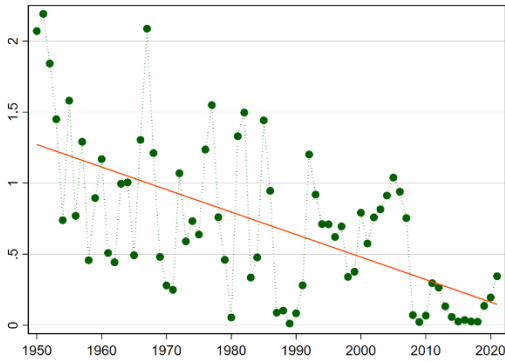


INDIVIDUAL STATE HISTORICAL LANDINGS AND TRENDS

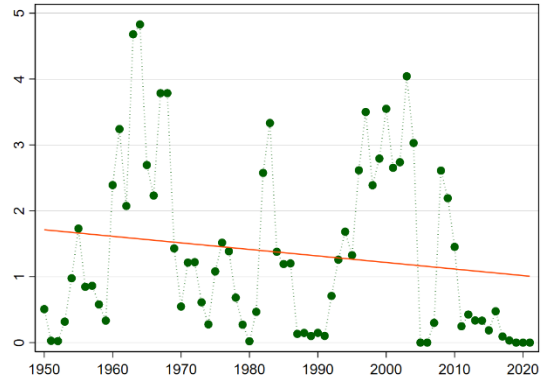
Gulf Coast States

Figure 16. Gulf Coast state historical landings and trends, in million pounds.

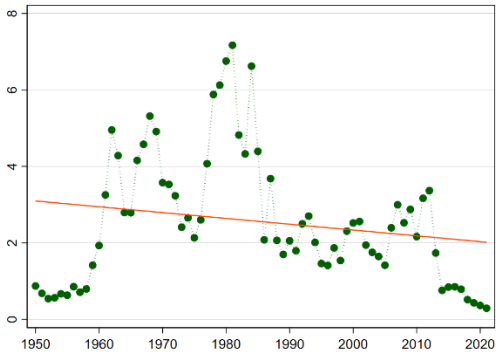
Alabama



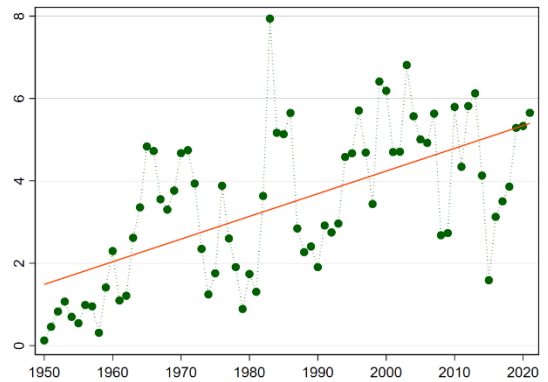
Mississippi



Florida (Gulf Coast)



Texas



Louisiana

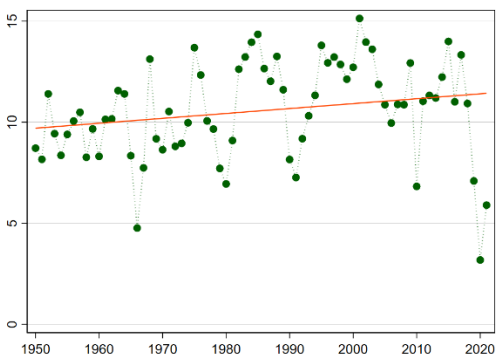
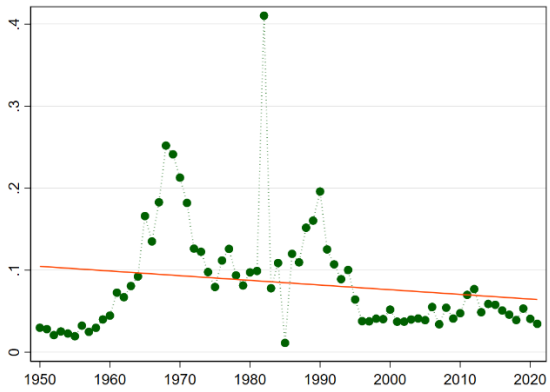
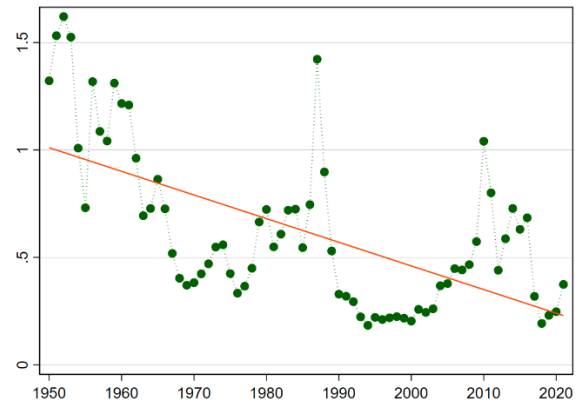


Figure 17. South Atlantic state historical landings and trends, in million pounds.

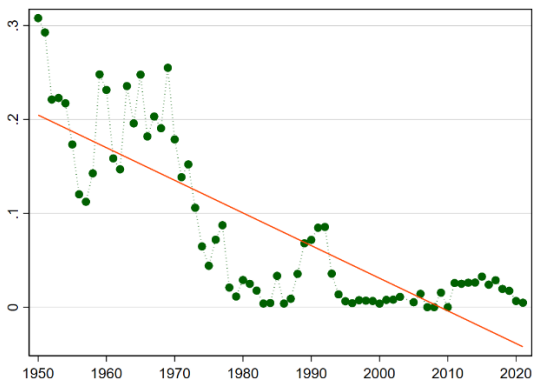
Florida (Atlantic Coast)



North Carolina



Georgia



South Carolina

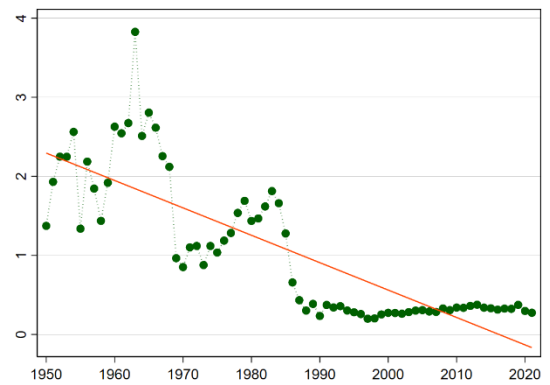
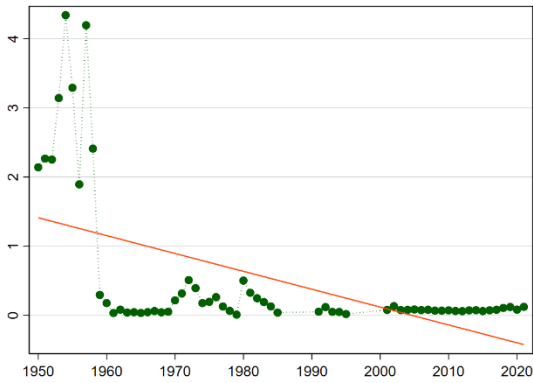
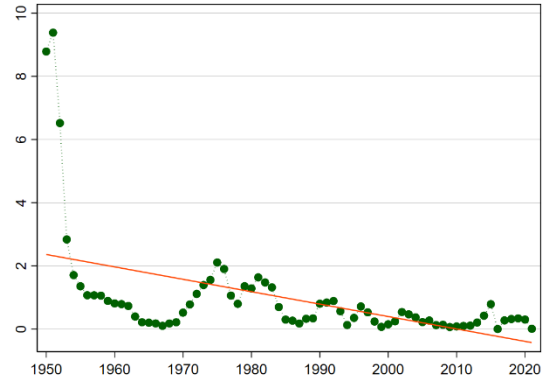


Figure 18. Mid-Atlantic state historical landings and trends, in million pounds.

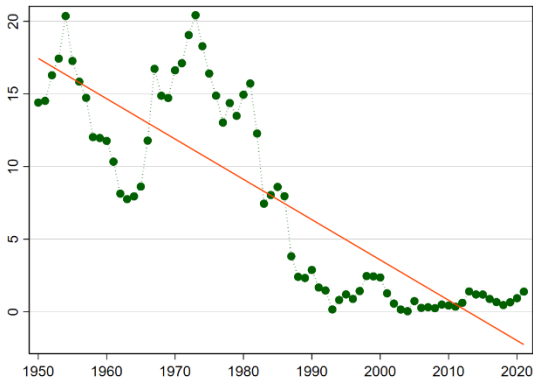
Delaware



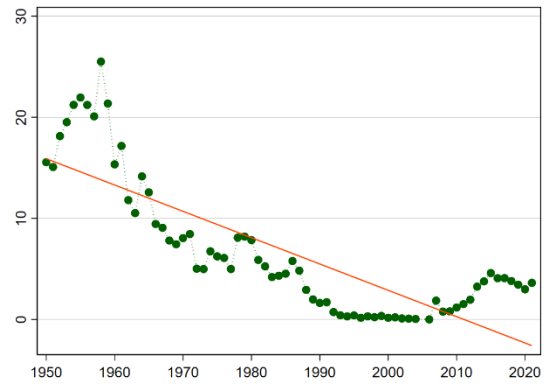
New York



Maryland



Virginia



New Jersey

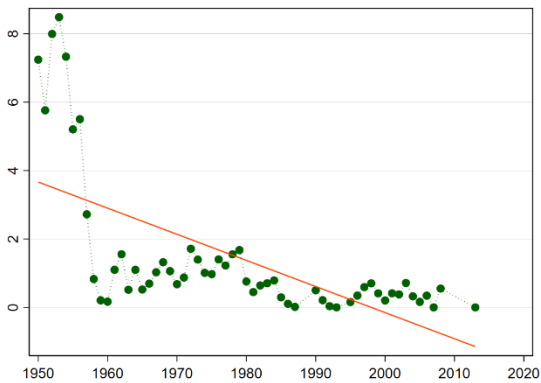
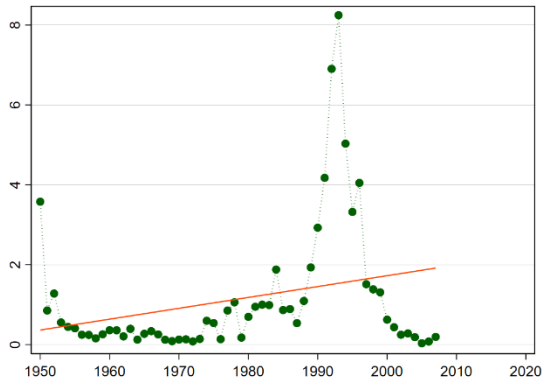
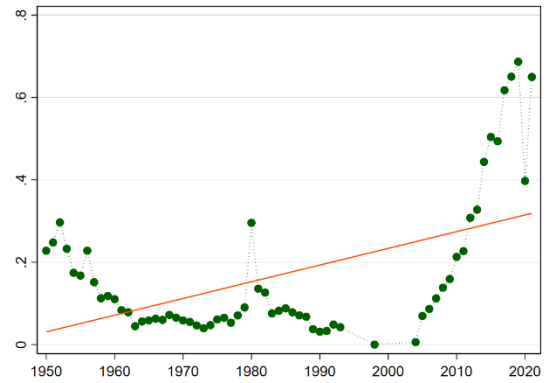


Figure 19. South Atlantic state historical landings and trends, in million pounds.

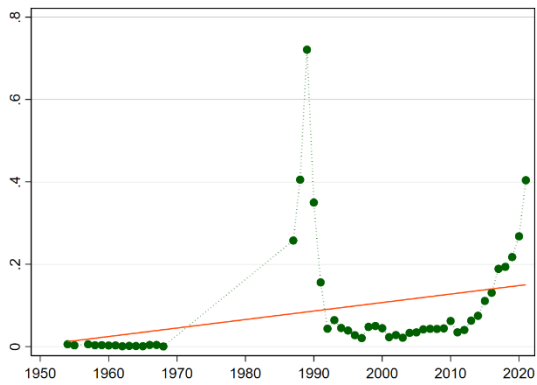
Connecticut



Massachusetts



Maine



Rhode Island

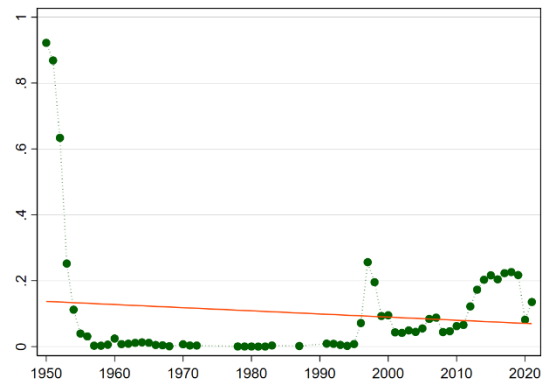
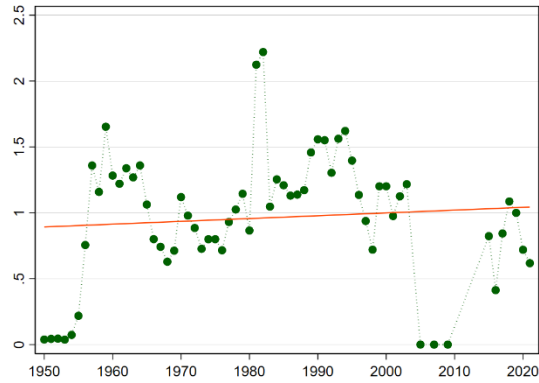
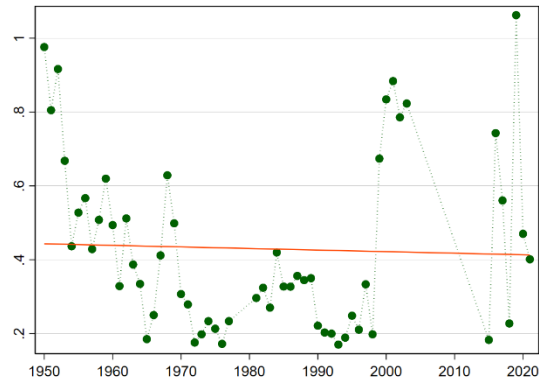


Figure 20. Pacific state historical landings and trends, in million pounds.

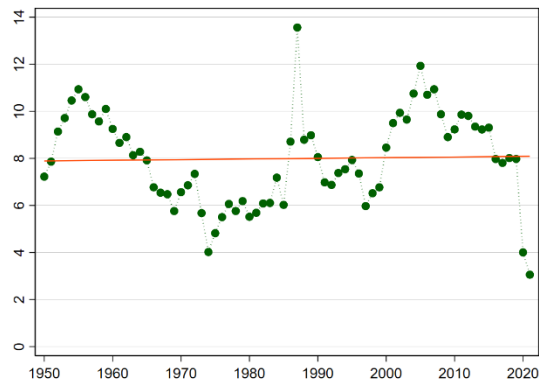
California



Oregon



Washington



TRADE

2021 U.S. IMPORTS

VOLUME: 43.05 MILLION POUNDS (8% INCREASE FROM 2020)

VALUE: \$92.46 MILLION (46% INCREASE FROM 2020)

AVG PRICE: \$2.15 PER POUND (35% INCREASE FROM 2020)

2021 U.S. EXPORTS

VOLUME: 3.93 MILLION POUNDS (16% INCREASE FROM 2020)

VALUE: \$14.24 MILLION (10% INCREASE FROM 2020)

AVG PRICE: \$3.62 PER POUND (5% DECREASE FROM 2020)

2021 TRADE BALANCE

-39.12 MILLION POUNDS | -\$78.22 MILLION

2021 TOTAL DOMESTIC USE

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION (23.28 MILLION POUNDS) + IMPORTS (43.05 MILLION POUNDS) – EXPORTS (3.93 MILLION POUNDS)
= 62.4 MILLION POUNDS

TRADE BY PRODUCT TYPE

Figures 21 and 22 show imports and exports by product type from 2012-2021. Total imports are up 8% over last year by volume, and up 16% by value, but volume is still below the 2018 high. Value, on the other hand, is at its highest point during the period of available data. Import volume is dominated by “other” oyster imports (66% of total), that is, imports that are in a form other than live/fresh or frozen, for example, canned or dried oysters. Import value, however, is led by live/fresh oysters (49% of total). Exports are up 16% over 2020 by volume and up 10% by value. Export volume and value are lower than any other year of available data except last year. Live/fresh oysters make up 85% of total exports by volume and 92% by value.

Figure 21. Trade volume (million pounds) by product type.

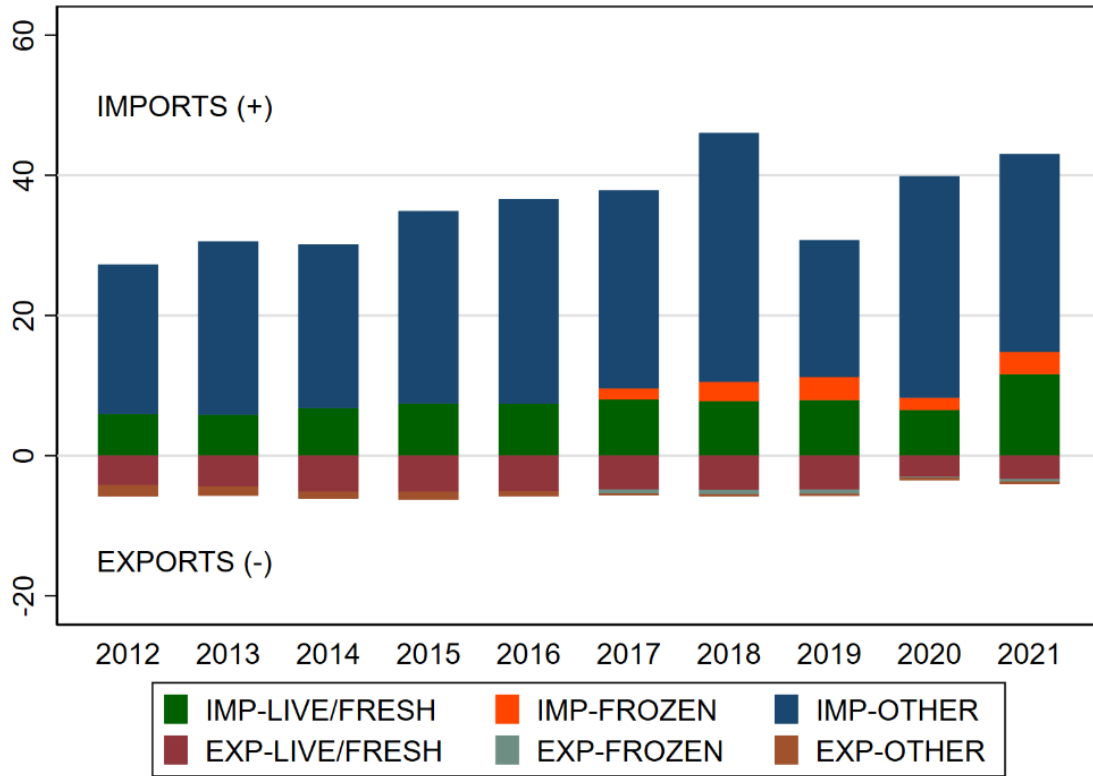
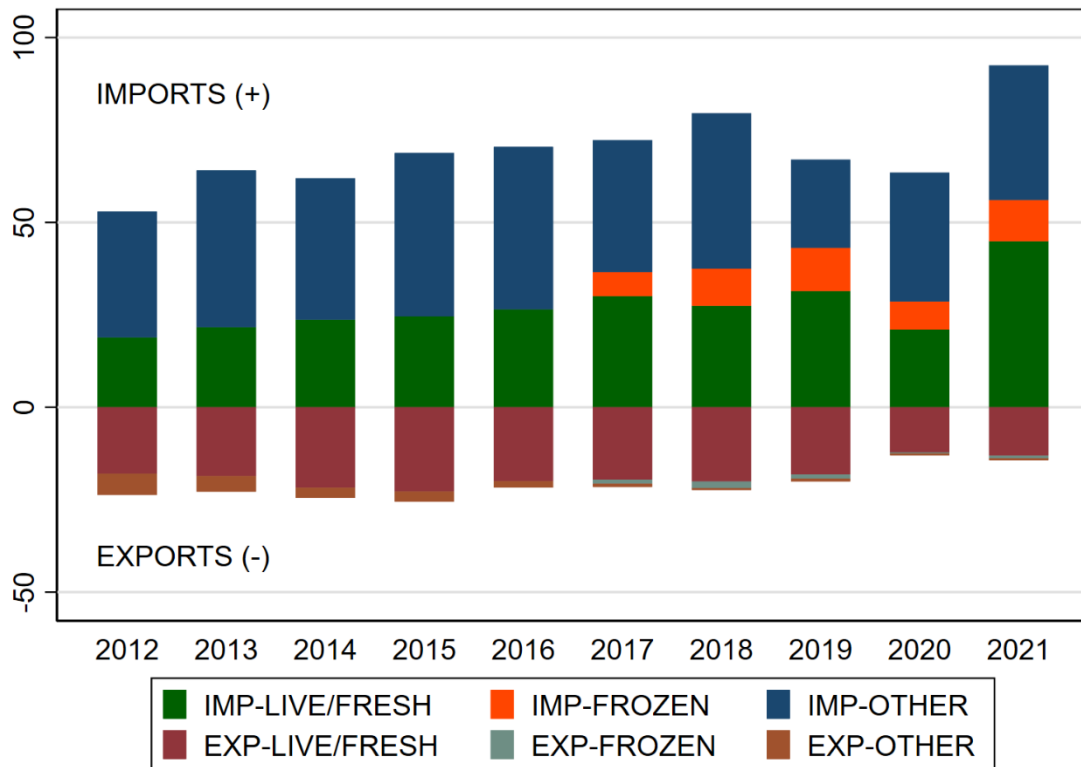


Figure 22. Trade value (\$ million) by product type.



TRADE BY COUNTRY

China dominates imports by volume, accounting for 50% of the total (21.65 million pounds), followed by Korea (19%, 8.36 million pounds), Canada (15%, 6.47 million pounds), Mexico (12%, 5.07 million pounds), and all other countries (4%, 1.51 million pounds) (Figure 23). Canada leads imports by value, accounting for 37% of the total (\$34.02 million), followed by China (25%, \$23.28 million), Korea (23%, \$20.90 million), Mexico (11%, \$9.96 million), and all others (5%, \$4.29 million) (Figure 24). Canada is the leading export destination, receiving 44% by volume (1.17 million pounds) and 57% by value (\$8.07 million). China received 25% by volume (1.00 million pounds) and 22% by value (\$3.11 million), and all other countries receive 31% by volume (1.22 million pounds) and 21% by value (\$3.06 million). Generally speaking, Canada and Mexico dominate live/fresh imports, Korea dominates frozen imports, and China dominates other imports (Figures 25-30).

Figure 23. Trade volume (million pounds) by country.

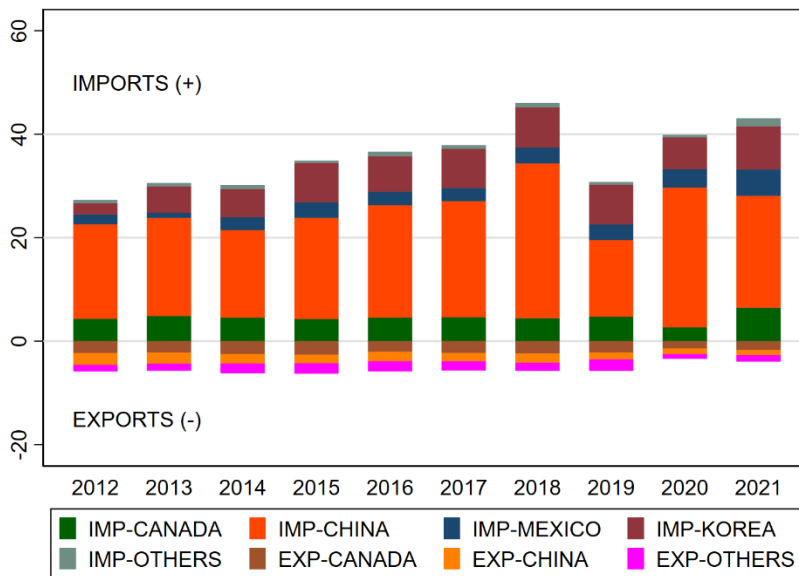
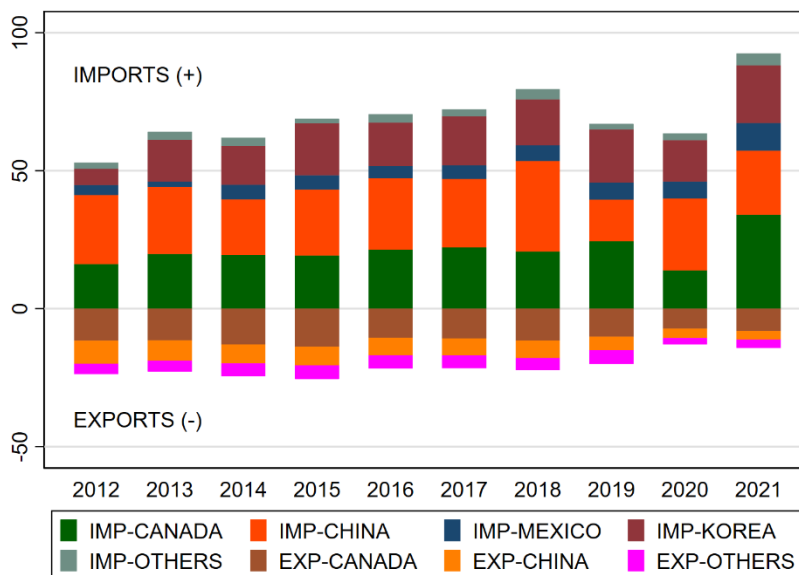


Figure 24. Trade value (\$ million) by country.



TOP TRADING COUNTRIES – LIVE/FRESH

Figure 25. Live/fresh trade volume (million pounds) by country (≥ 0.01 million pounds).

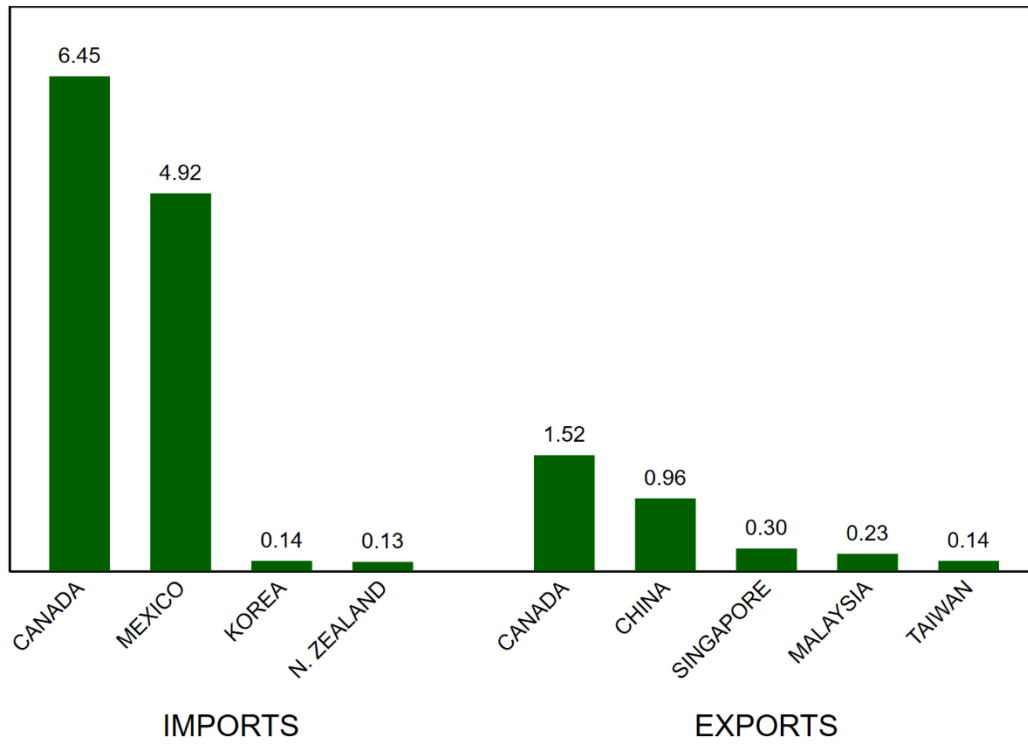
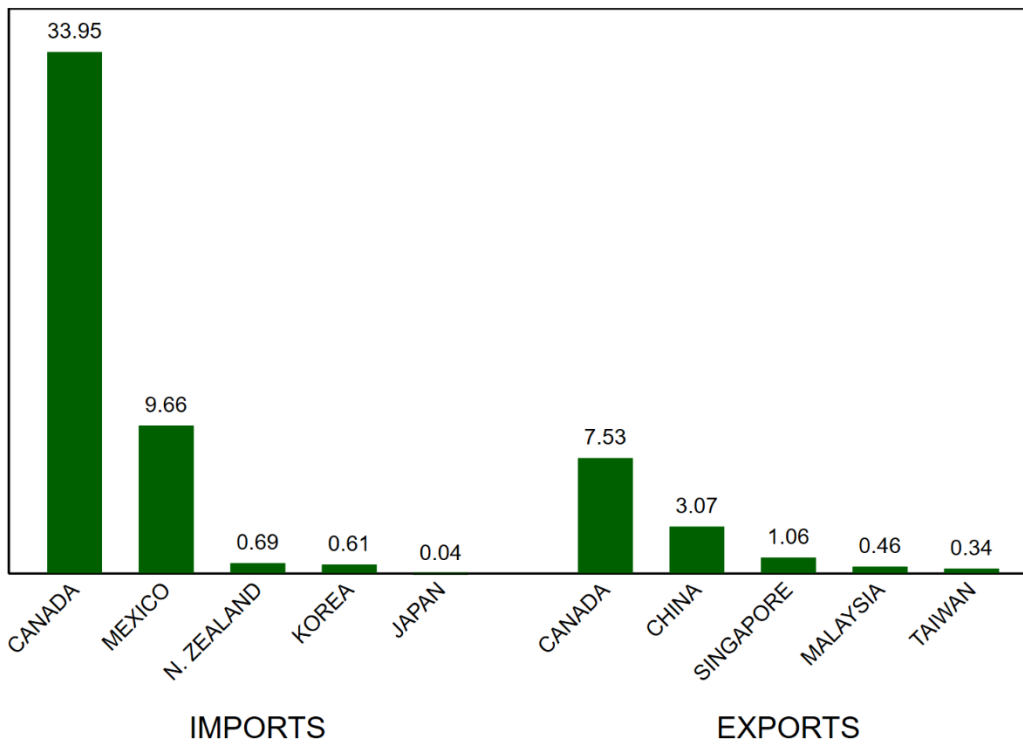


Figure 26. Live/fresh trade value (\$ million) by country ($\geq \$0.01$ million).



TOP TRADING COUNTRIES – FROZEN

Figure 27. Frozen trade volume (million pounds) by country (≥ 0.01 million pounds).

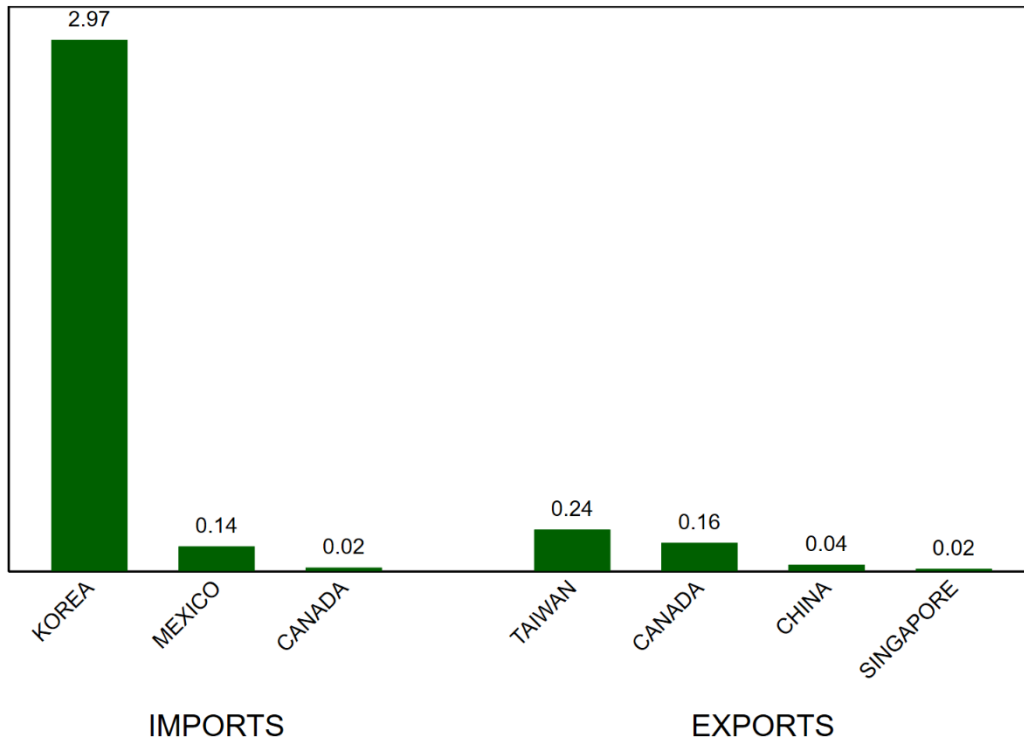
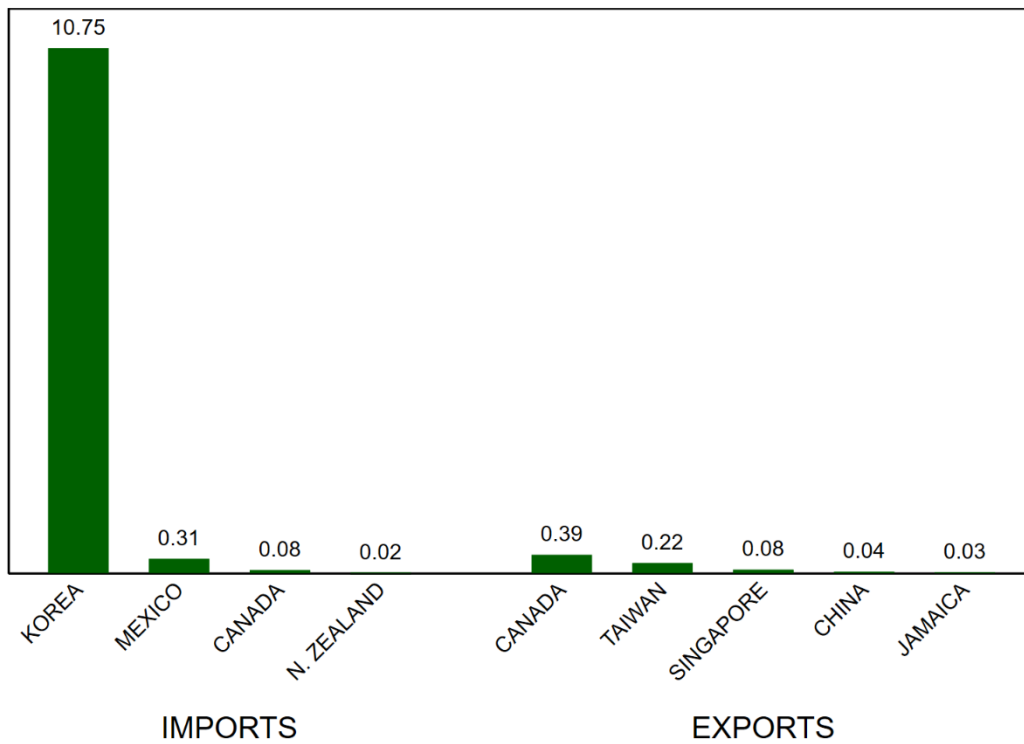


Figure 28. Frozen trade value (\$ million) by country ($\geq \$0.01$ million).



TOP TRADING COUNTRIES – OTHER

Figure 29. Other trade volume (million pounds) by country (≥ 0.01 million pounds).

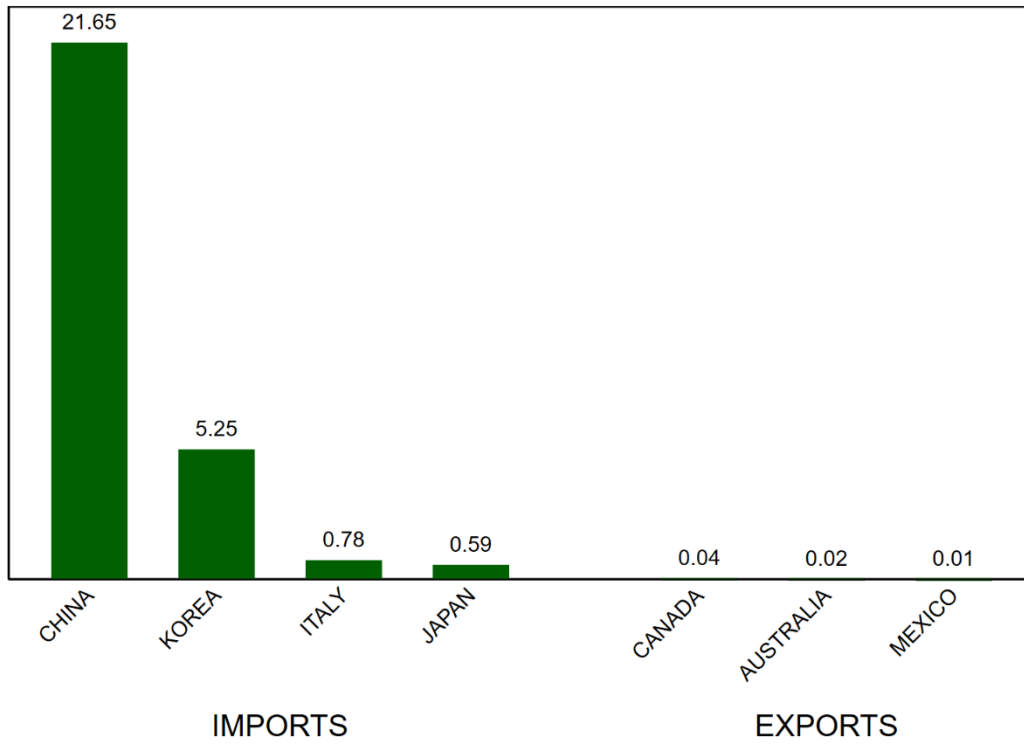


Figure 30. Other trade value (\$ million) by country ($\geq \$0.01$ million).

