

IMPACTS OF IMPORTED SHRIMP PRICES ON U.S. SHRIMP DOCKSIDE PRICES

ABSTRACT

- This newsletter shows a proposed methodology in assessing the impacts of cheap imported shrimp on the dockside prices of shrimp harvested from the U.S. Gulf of America states (*Penaeid* species only) from January 2018 to July 2025.
- An econometric model was developed to measure the impacts of imported shrimp count 16-20 prices on the same U.S. shrimp count dockside prices.
- Preliminary results showed that the deflated dockside prices of Gulf white shrimp count 16-20 are significantly affected by the deflated wholesale prices of wild Gulf and imported farmed Asian and Latin American white shrimp count 16-20.

KEYWORDS

- Cheap shrimp imports, Gulf domestic dockside prices, Gulf and imported wholesale prices, and Gulf wild shrimp.

SUGGESTED CITATION

- Posadas, Benedict C. 2025. Impacts of Imported Shrimp Prices on U.S. Shrimp Dockside Prices. Vol. 15, No. 12. Mississippi State University Extension and Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Publication MASGP-25-058-12. December 17, 2025. <https://extension.msstate.edu/newsletters/mississippi-marketmaker>.

U.S. PER CAPITA SHRIMP CONSUMPTION

- Japan has the highest per capita shrimp consumption, at 7.23 pounds. The United States ranks second in per-capita shrimp consumption.
- Shrimp has been the most consumed seafood in the U.S. since 2001, surpassing canned tuna. It accounts for a significant portion of all seafood consumed by Americans, more than other popular species, such as salmon and tilapia, combined.
- U.S. per capita shrimp consumption reached its peak at 5.9 pounds per person in 2021 before slightly declining in 2022.
- The U.S. primarily relies on imports to meet this high demand, with approximately 94% of consumed shrimp being imported, mainly farmed shrimp from Asia and Latin America.
- Source: **AI Overview**.



Figure 1

White shrimp, *Litopenaeus setiferus*;
Brown shrimp, *Farfantepenaeus aztecus*; and
Pink shrimp, *Farfantepenaeus duorarum*.
Source: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/find-species>.

METHODS

- The dockside prices were compiled from the monthly reports prepared by NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Statistics Division.

- U.S. shrimp prices are grouped by count per pound, namely 15 and below, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-50, and higher. Shrimp dockside prices were plotted against the exact wholesale shrimp count prices to identify graphical relationships.
- Wholesale prices were indexed to 2018 for confidentiality and plotted to show long-term monthly trends. The original wholesale prices are compiled from a paid data subscription.
- The econometric models of **U.S. SHRIMP DOCKSIDE PRICES** (\$/lb) assume that the **deflated dockside prices** could be explained by:
 - Month,
 - Year,
 - Deflated Gulf wild domestic wholesale prices,
 - Deflated imported Asian farmed wholesale prices,
 - Deflated imported Latin American farmed wholesale prices,
 - Deflated diesel prices,
 - Other variables.
- The **Ordinary Least Squares** (OLS) model of **U.S. Shrimp Dockside Prices** consists of the following dependent variable:
 - Deflated dockside prices (\$/lb).
- The **U.S. Shrimp Dockside Prices Model** is estimated by using the **robust variance procedure** of STATA-19.
- The **variation inflation factor** is calculated to detect the possible presence of multicollinearity.
- The marginal impacts are computed using the **margins procedure**.

SHRIMP DOCKSIDE PRICES VERSUS WHOLESALE PRICES

- The Gulf domestic white shrimp count 16-20 dockside prices are directly related to the domestic Gulf white shrimp count 16-20 wholesale prices (Fig. 2).
 - This trend indicates that lower wholesale prices for Gulf shrimp tend to depress Gulf dockside prices.
- The Gulf domestic white shrimp dockside prices (16-20) are also directly related to the farmed Asian white shrimp wholesale prices (16-20; Fig. 3).
 - This trend indicates that lower wholesale prices for imported Asian shrimp tend to depress Gulf dockside prices.
- The Gulf domestic white shrimp count 16-20 dockside prices are also directly related to the farmed Latin American white shrimp count 16-20 wholesale prices (Fig. 4).
 - This trend indicates that lower wholesale prices for imported Latin American shrimp tend to depress Gulf dockside prices.

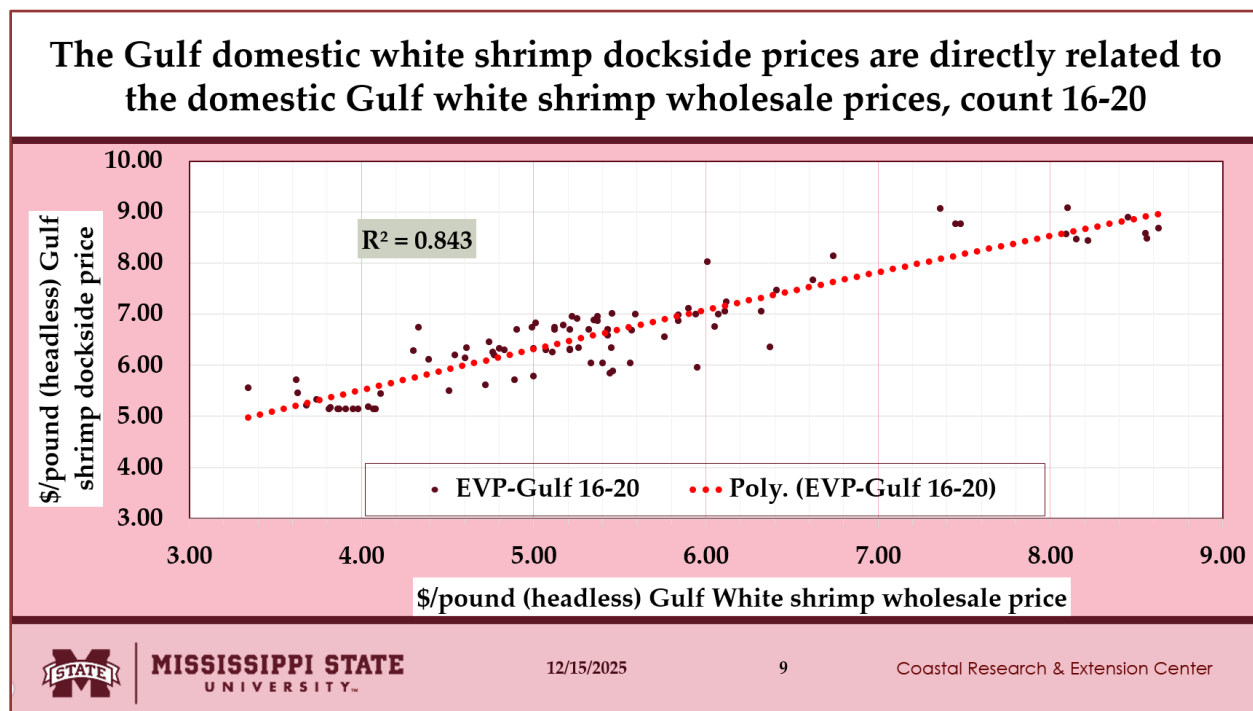
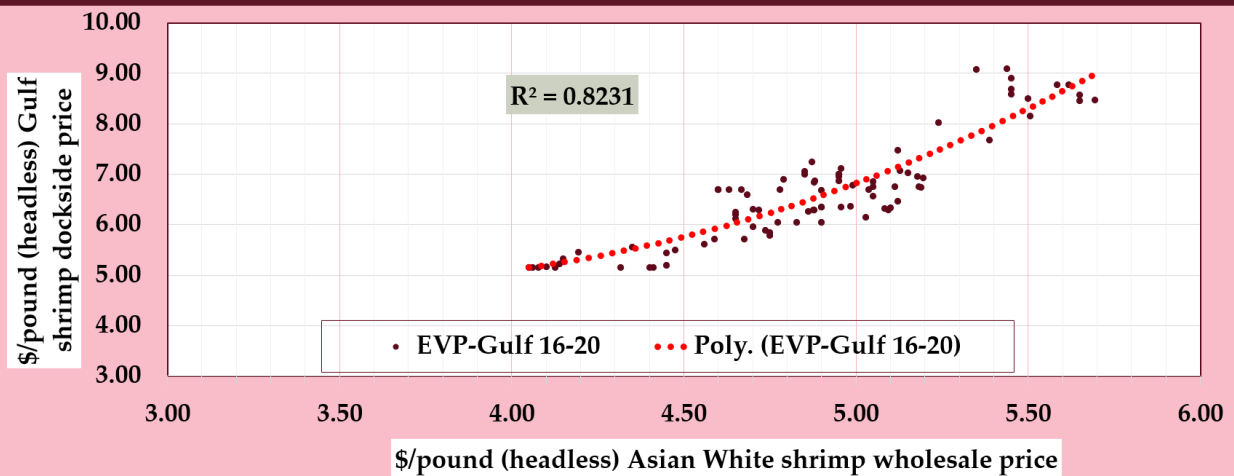


Figure 2

The Gulf domestic white shrimp dockside prices are also directly related to the farmed Asian white shrimp wholesale prices, count 16-20



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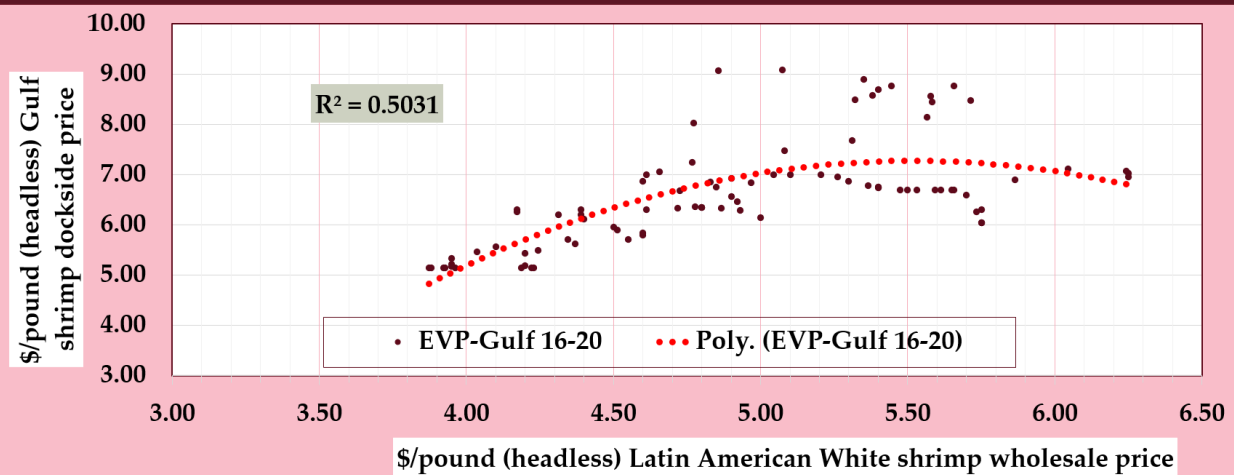
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10

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Figure 3

The Gulf domestic white shrimp dockside prices are also directly related to the farmed Latin American white shrimp wholesale prices, count 16-20.



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11

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Figure 4

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WHOLESALE SHRIMP PRICE INDEX (2018=100)

- The wholesale price of U.S. Gulf of America region white shrimp, count 16-20 was lowest between mid-2022 and early 2025 (Fig. 5).
- The wholesale price of Asian farmed shrimp, count 16-20 was lowest between late 2022 and early 2025 (Fig. 6).
- The wholesale price of Latin American farmed shrimp, count 16-20 was lowest between mid-2022 and early 2025 (Fig. 7).

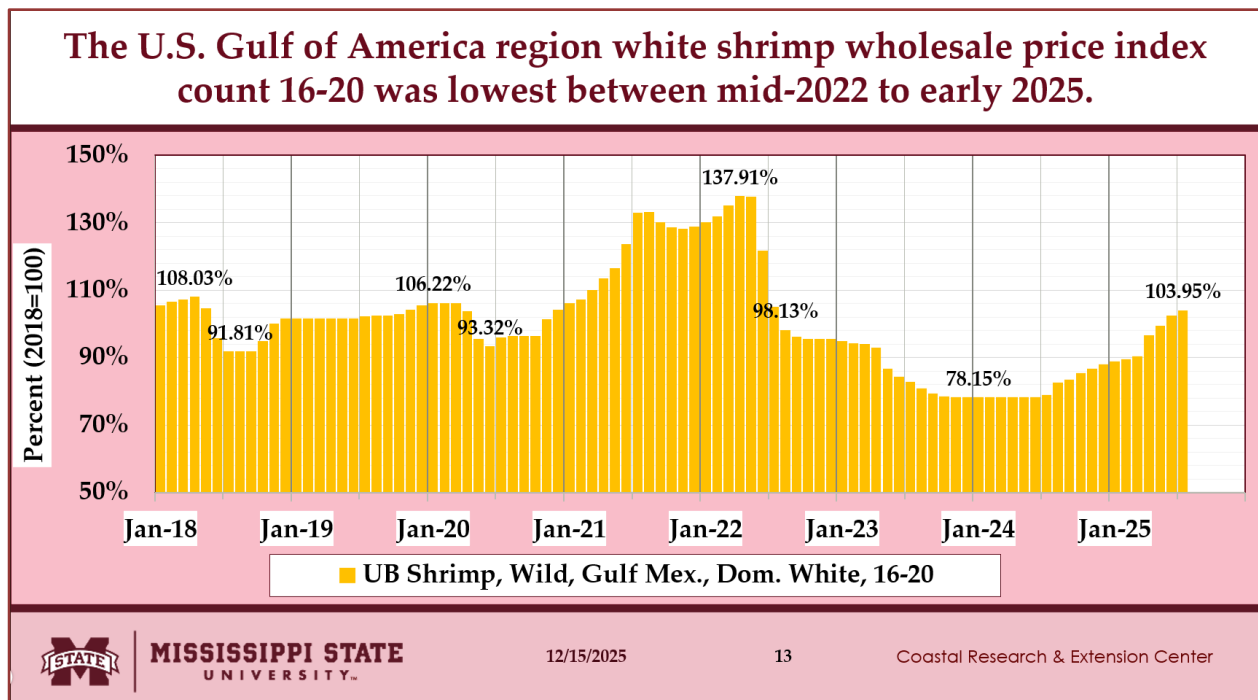
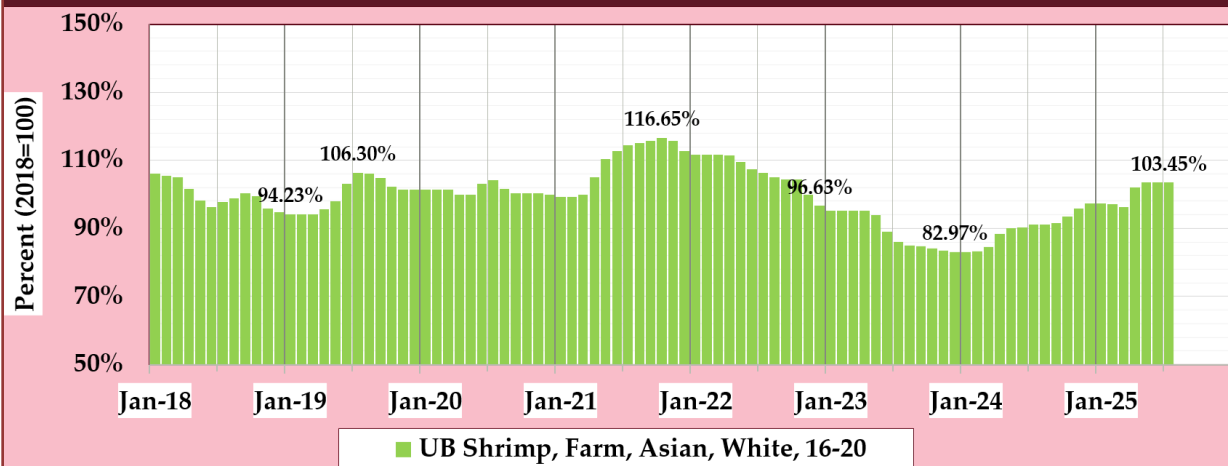


Figure 5

The Asian farmed shrimp wholesale price index count 16-20 was lowest between late 2022 to early 2025.



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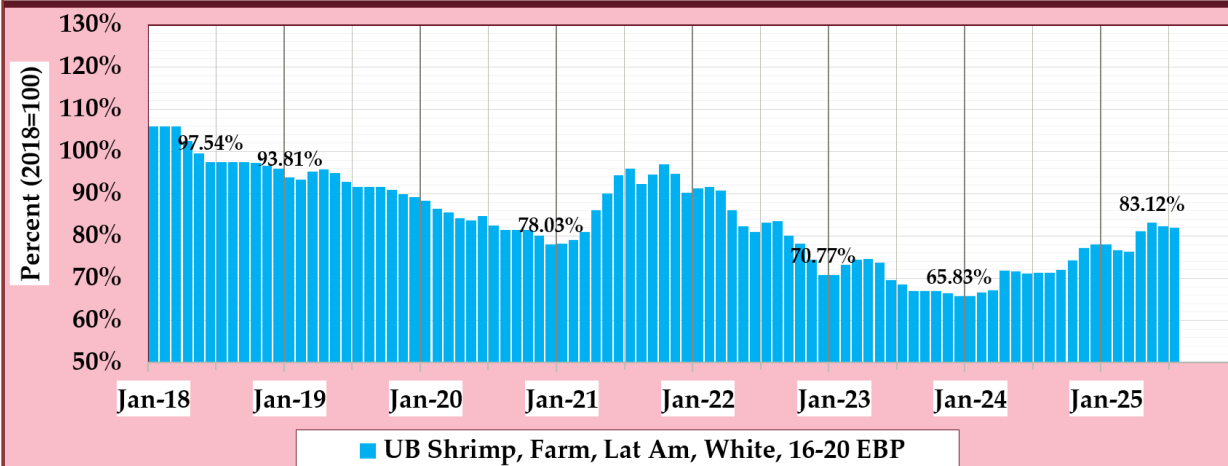
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14

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Figure 6

The Latin American farmed shrimp wholesale price index count 16-20 was lowest between mid-2022 to early 2025.



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15

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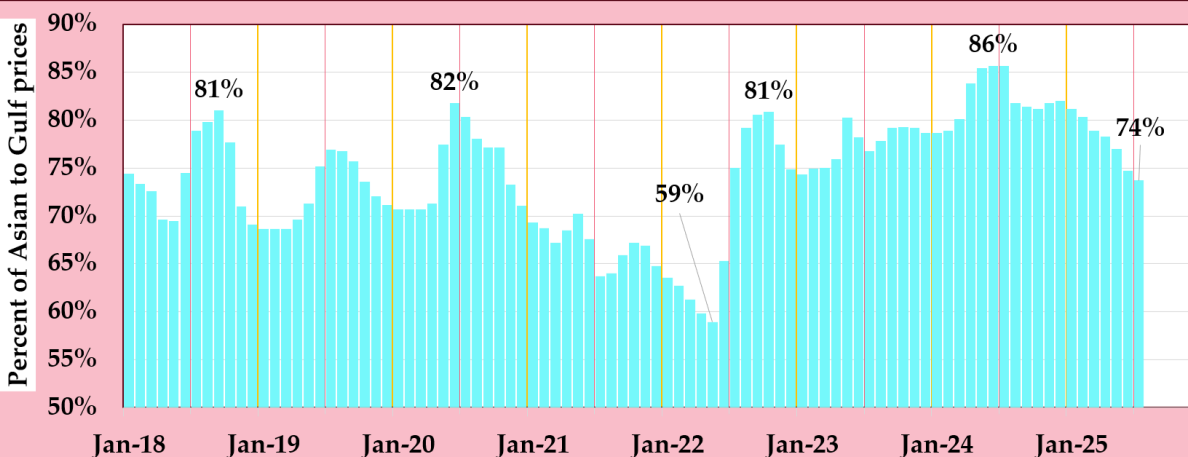
Figure 7

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF GULF DOMESTIC SHRIMP ARE HIGHER THAN WHOLESALE PRICES OF IMPORTED FARMED SHRIMP

- Wholesale prices for Asian farmed white shrimp are significantly lower than those for Gulf white shrimp, count 16-20 (Fig. 8).
- Latin American farmed white shrimp wholesale prices are significantly lower than those of Gulf white shrimp, count 16-20 (Fig. 9)
- Since mid-2020, Latin American farmed white shrimp wholesale prices have been lower than Asian farmed white shrimp, count 16-20 (Fig. 10).

Asian farmed white shrimp wholesale prices are significantly lower than wholesale prices of Gulf white shrimp, count 16-20.



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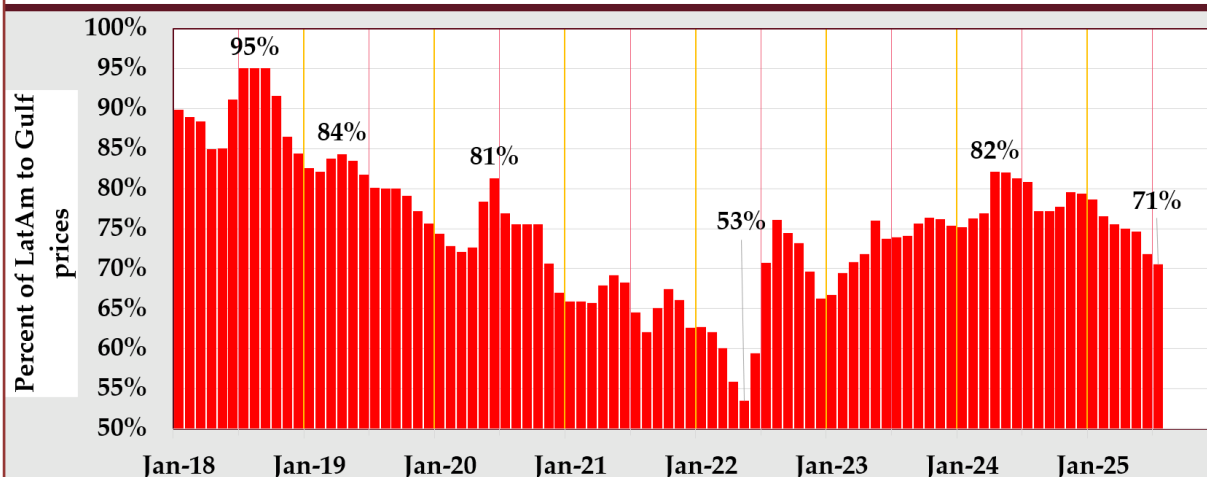
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17

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Figure 8

Latin American farmed white shrimp wholesale prices are significantly lower than wholesale prices of Gulf white shrimp, count 16-20.



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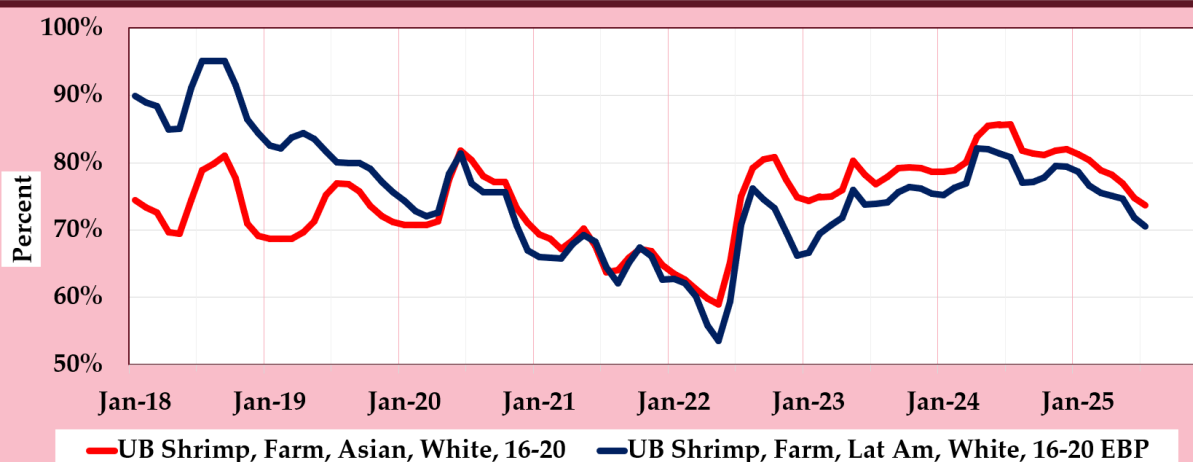
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18

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Figure 9

Since mid-2020, Latin American farmed white shrimp wholesale prices are cheaper than Asian farmed white shrimp, count 16-20.



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19

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RESULTS OF THE ECONOMETRIC MODEL

- The preliminary results for wild Gulf domestic white shrimp, count 16-20, deflated dockside prices, are shown in Fig. 11.
- Five independent variables showed statistically significant effects on wild Gulf domestic white shrimp, count 16-20 deflated dockside prices.
- Lower wild Gulf domestic white shrimp counts (16-20) deflated dockside prices are observed in May compared to January.
- Deflated wild Gulf domestic white shrimp dockside prices, count 16-20, are significantly affected by domestic wild Gulf white shrimp, count 16-20.
- Deflated wild Gulf domestic white shrimp dockside prices, count 16-20, are significantly affected by imported farmed Asian white shrimp, count 16-20.
- Deflated wild Gulf domestic white shrimp dockside prices, count 16-20, are significantly affected by imported farmed Latin American white shrimp, count 16-20.

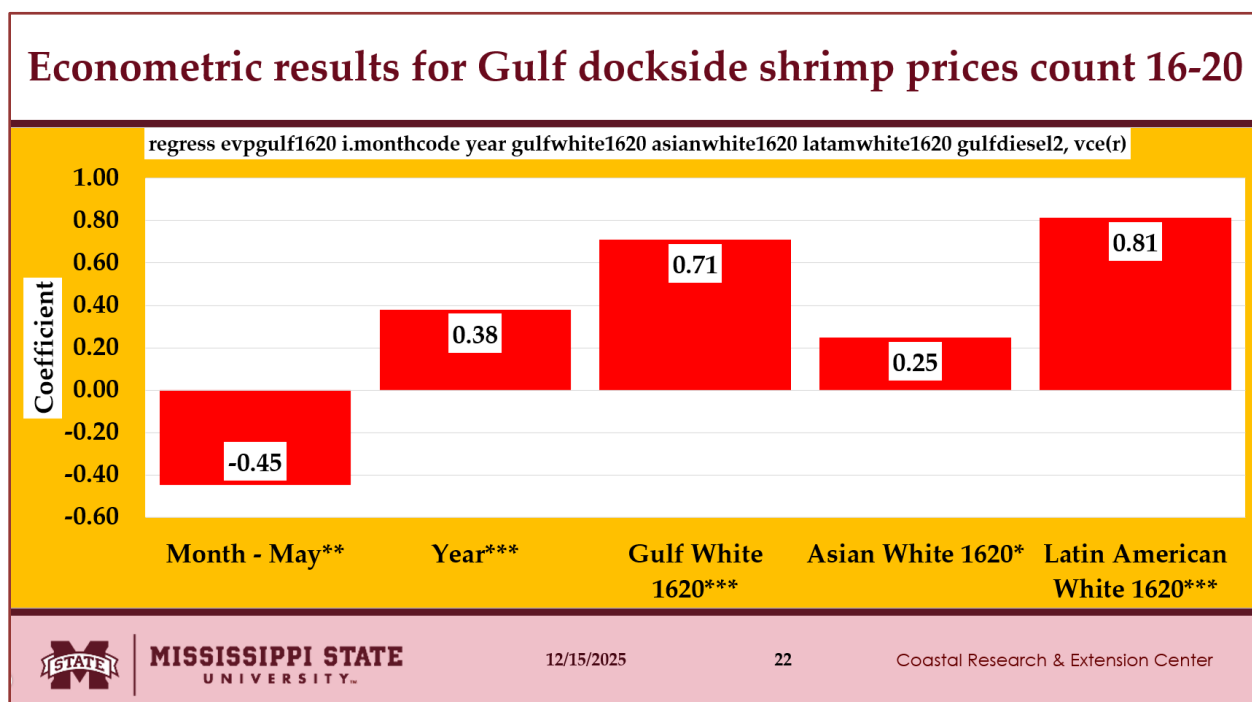


Figure 11

SUMMARY, LIMITATIONS, AND IMPLICATIONS

- Preliminary results showed that the deflated dockside prices of wild Gulf domestic white shrimp count 16-20 are significantly affected by the deflated wholesale prices of wild Gulf domestic white shrimp count 16-20.
- The deflated dockside prices of wild Gulf domestic white shrimp count 16-20 are significantly affected by the deflated wholesale prices of imported Asian farmed white shrimp count 16-20.
- The deflated dockside prices of wild Gulf domestic white shrimp count 16-20 are significantly impacted by the deflated wholesale prices of imported Latin American farmed white shrimp count 16-20.
- The massive importation of significantly cheaper farmed shrimp from Asian countries exerted intense downward pressure on the dockside prices of wild Gulf domestic white shrimp count 16-20.
- The significant importation of farmed shrimp at lower prices from Latin American countries exerted robust downward pressure on the dockside prices of wild Gulf domestic white shrimp, count 16-20.
- In recent years, dockside prices for wild Gulf domestic shrimp have fallen to unsustainable levels, in some cases well below the cost of production.
- Since 94% of consumed shrimp are imported, these market conditions make it nearly impossible for many U.S. shrimpers to make a decent living.

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ADDITIONAL NEWSLETTERS

- Mississippi MarketMaker. Vol. 15, No. 5 / Direct Revenue Impacts of Tariffs on U.S. Shrimp Imports. May 20, 2025
- Mississippi MarketMaker. Vol. 13, No. 12 / Direct Impacts of Disaster and Economic Events on United States White Shrimp Fisheries. December 13, 2023
- Mississippi MarketMaker. Vol. 13, No. 2 / Has the U.S. Saltwater Shrimp Aquaculture Industry Slowed Down During the Past Decade? February 21, 2023
- Mississippi MarketMaker. Vol. 12, No. 9 / Economic Impacts of Disaster Events on Gulf Shrimp Landings. September 14, 2022
- Mississippi MarketMaker. Vol. 12, No.8 / Effects of Higher Fuel and Lower Dockside Prices on Gulf Shrimping. August 11, 2022.

RECENT YOUTUBE VIDEOS

- 2025-39 IMPACTS OF IMPORTED SHRIMP PRICES ON U.S. SHRIMP COUNT 21-25 DOCKSIDE PRICES. <https://youtu.be/NlczHqsO1-A>.
- 2025-38 IMPACTS OF IMPORTED SHRIMP PRICES ON US SHRIMP DOCKSIDE PRICES. <https://youtu.be/UV2qPgoT74E>.
- 2025-37 GULF OF AMERICA SHRIMP DOCKSIDE PRICES. <https://youtu.be/SRspGLpJgHY>.