Mississippi MarketMaker Newsletter

U.S. OYSTER PRICES: LANDINGS, IMPORTS, EXPORTS, SHUCKED AND FARMED PRODUCTS

ABSTRACT

- This newsletter compiles average prices for U.S. oyster products, derived from the values and volumes of selected U.S. oyster products.
- Available secondary data on annual U.S. oyster landings, imports, and exports, and farmed and processed oyster products are collated from the NOAA Fisheries and USDA Census of Aquaculture websites.
- Trendlines for imputed prices of U.S. oyster products are projected to show a steady trend through 2030

KEYWORDS

- U.S. oysters, dockside prices, import prices, export prices, farmgate prices, and plant-gate prices.

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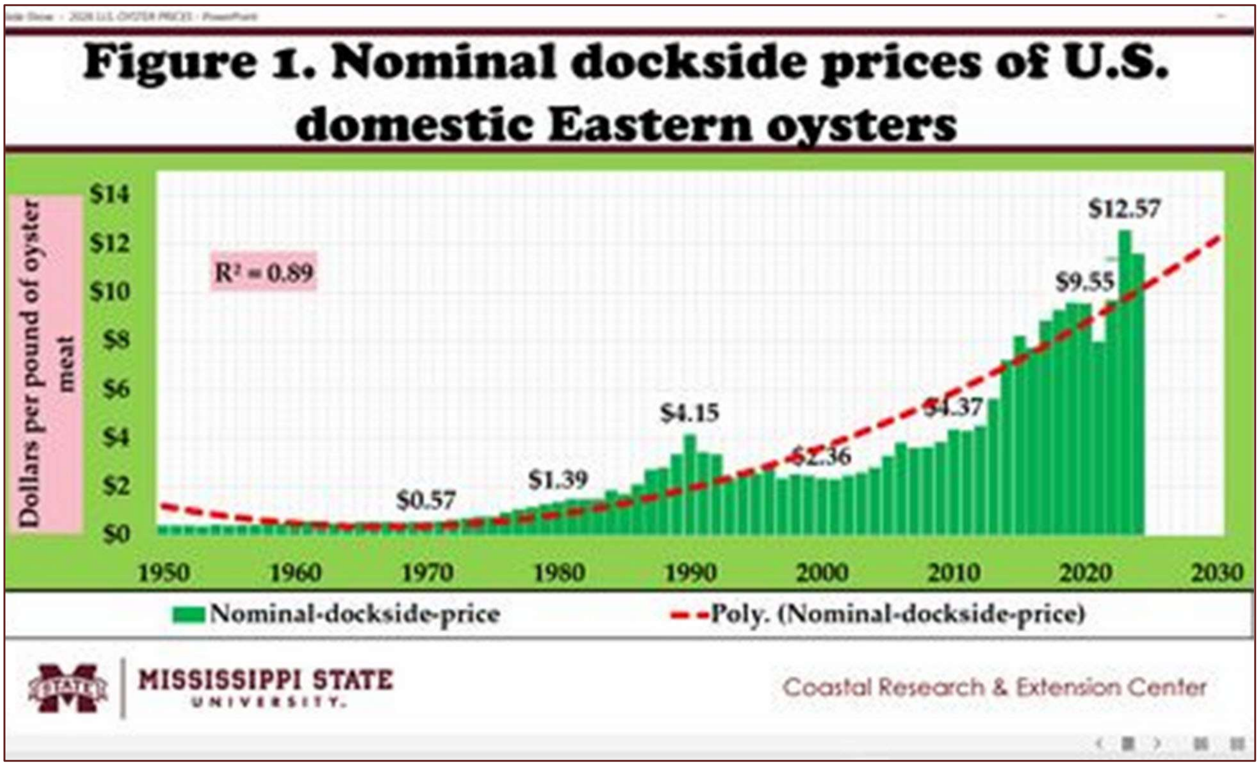
METHODS

- Annual data on U.S. oyster landings, imports, and exports and processed shucked meats are compiled from the NOAA Fisheries website—source of raw data: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/foss.
- Annual data on oyster aquaculture production are collated from the NOAA Fisheries and the USDA Census of Aquaculture websites.
- The average prices for U.S. oyster products are imputed from the values and volumes of selected U.S. oyster products.
- Trendlines for imputed U.S. oyster prices are projected to show a steady trend through 2030.

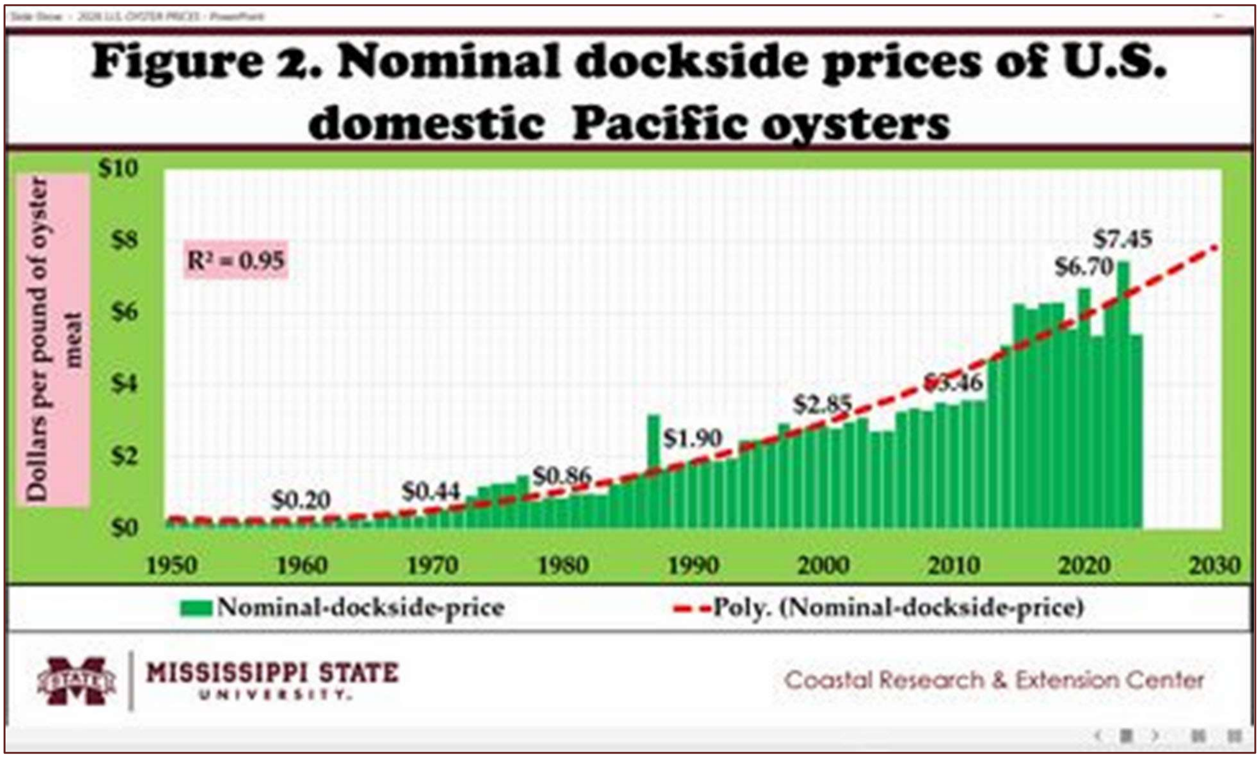
DOMESTIC EASTERN OYSTERS

- The primary producers of Eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in the USA are located along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, with Louisiana and Virginia leading in total landings and value.
- The nominal dockside prices of U.S. domestic wild Eastern oysters from 1950 to 2024 are shown in Figure 1.
- The nominal dockside prices of U.S. domestic wild Eastern oysters reached a peak of $12.57 per pound in 2023.



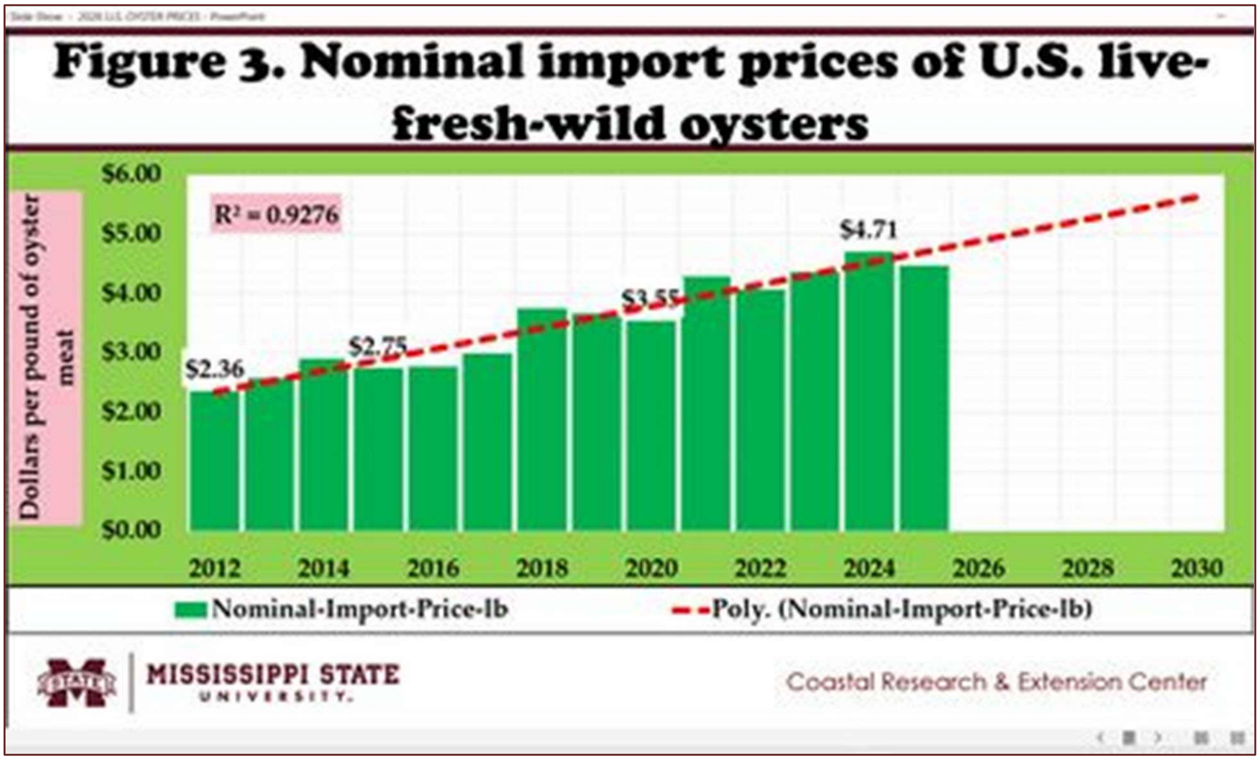
DOMESTIC PACIFIC OYSTERS

- Washington is the dominant producer of Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) in the USA, accounting for a vast majority of West Coast production.
- The nominal dockside prices of U.S. domestic wild Pacific oysters from 1950 to 2024 are shown in Figure 2.
- The nominal dockside prices of U.S. domestic wild Pacific oysters reached a peak of $7.45 per pound in 2023.



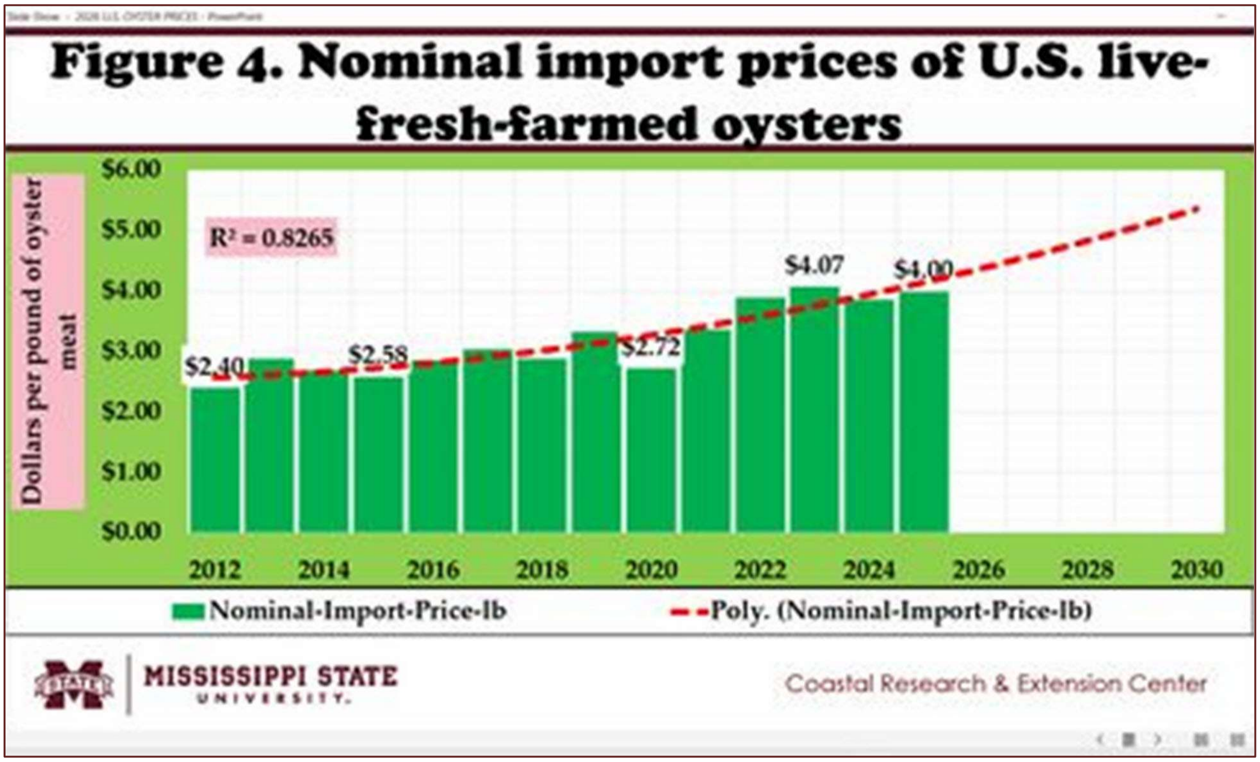
IMPORTED-LIVE-FRESH-WILD OYSTERS

- In 2025, the U.S. imported live, fresh, and wild oysters primarily from Canada (89.1%), with smaller shares from South Korea (7.8%) and New Zealand (3.1%).
- The nominal prices of U.S. live-fresh-wild oyster imports from 2012 to 2025 are shown in Figure 3.
- The nominal import prices of U.S. live-fresh-wild oysters reached a peak of $4.71 per pound in 2024.



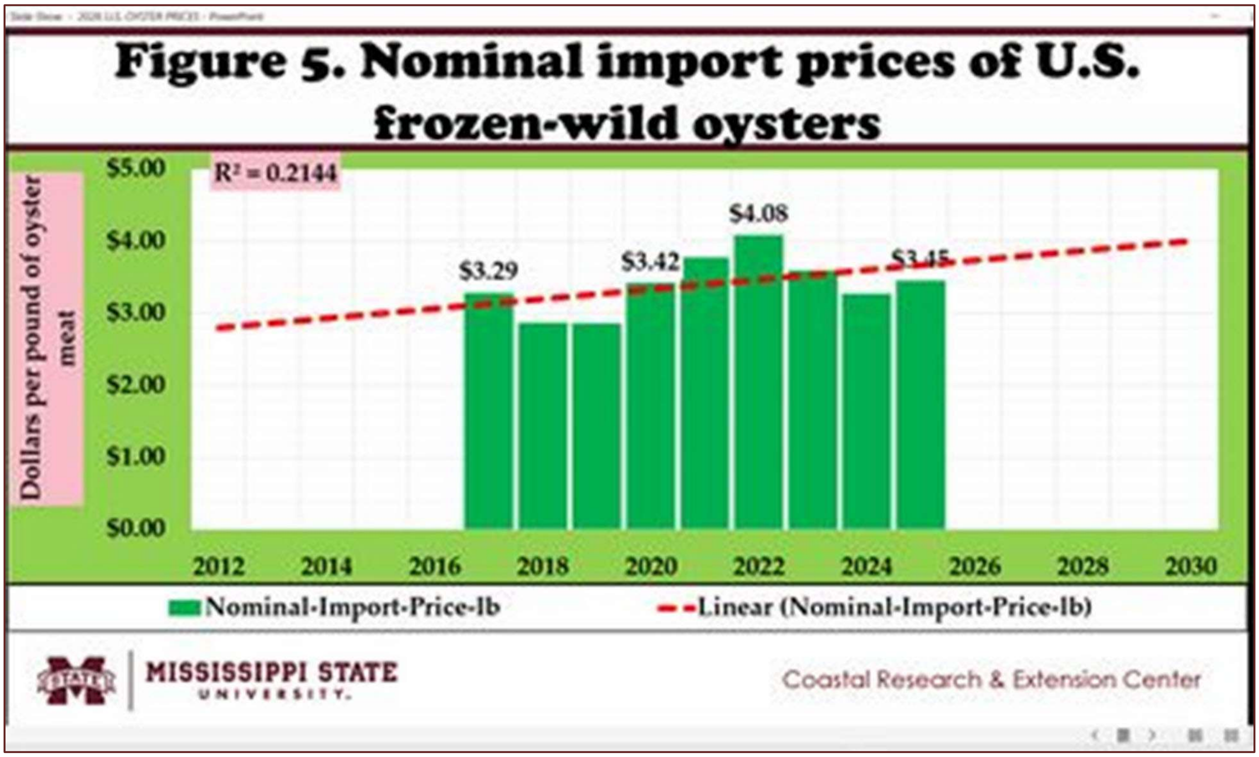
IMPORTED-LIVE-FRESH-FARMED OYSTERS

- In 2025, the U.S. imported live, fresh, and farmed oysters mostly from Canada (78.1%), with smaller shares from Mexico (21.8%), South Korea (0.1%), and Spain (0.01%).
- The nominal import prices of U.S. live-fresh-farmed oysters from 2012 to 2025 are shown in Figure 4.
- The nominal import prices of U.S. live-fresh-farmed oysters reached a peak of $4.07 per pound in 2023.



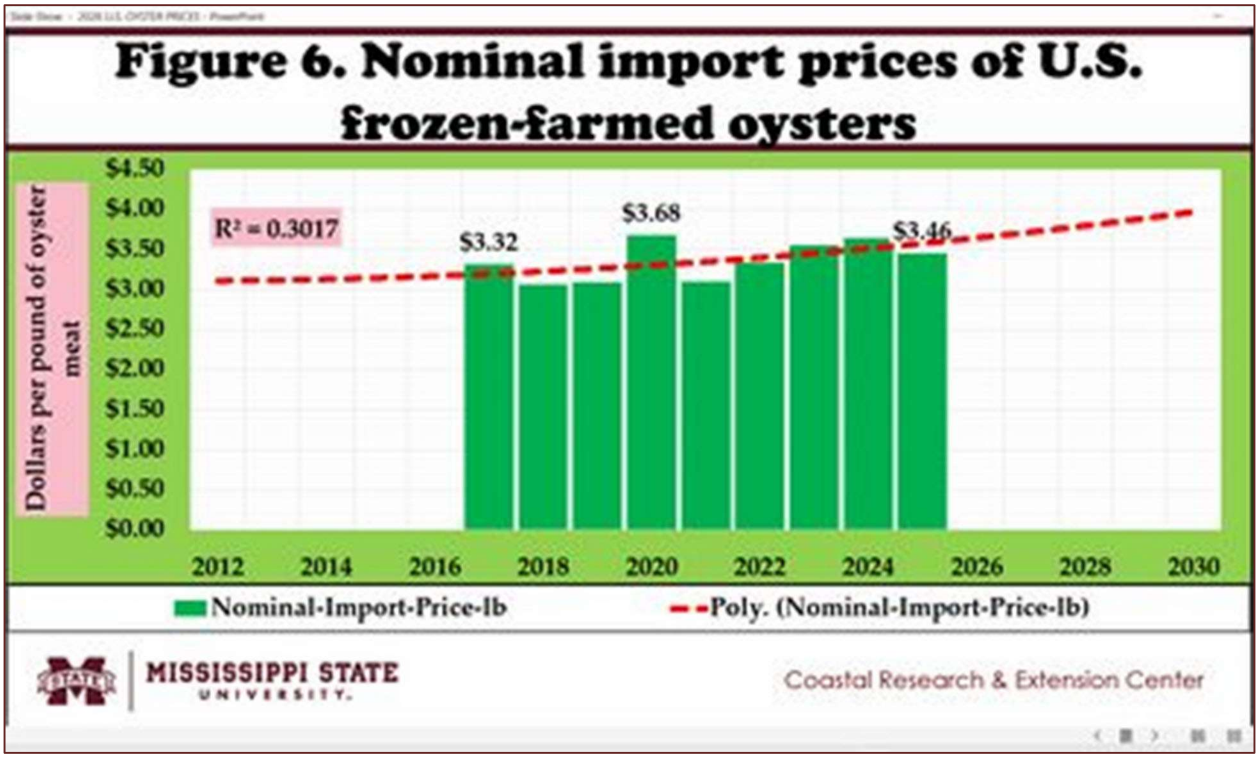
IMPORTED-FROZEN-WILD OYSTERS

- In 2025, the U.S. imported frozen wild oysters mostly from South Korea (95.1%) and some from China (4.9%).
- The nominal import prices of U.S. frozen wild oysters from 2017 to 2025 are shown in Figure 5.
- The nominal import prices of U.S. frozen wild oysters reached a peak of $4.08 per pound in 2022.



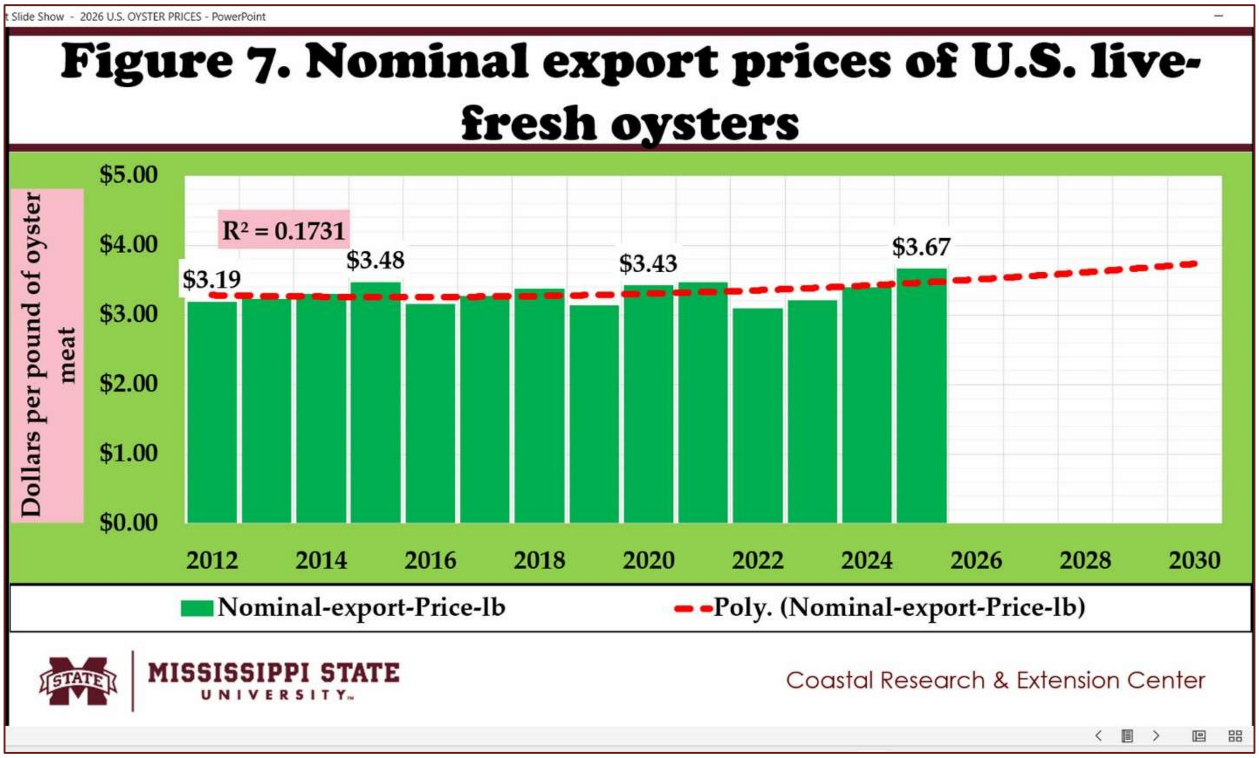
IMPORTED-FROZEN-FARMED OYSTERS

- In 2025, the U.S. imported frozen farmed oysters primarily from South Korea (93.5%), with smaller shares from Mexico (3.54%), Japan (1.65%), Vietnam (0.85%), and China (0.28%).
- The nominal prices of U.S. frozen farmed oyster imports from 2017 to 2025 are shown in Figure 6.
- The nominal import prices of U.S. frozen farmed oysters reached a peak of $3.68 per pound in 2020.



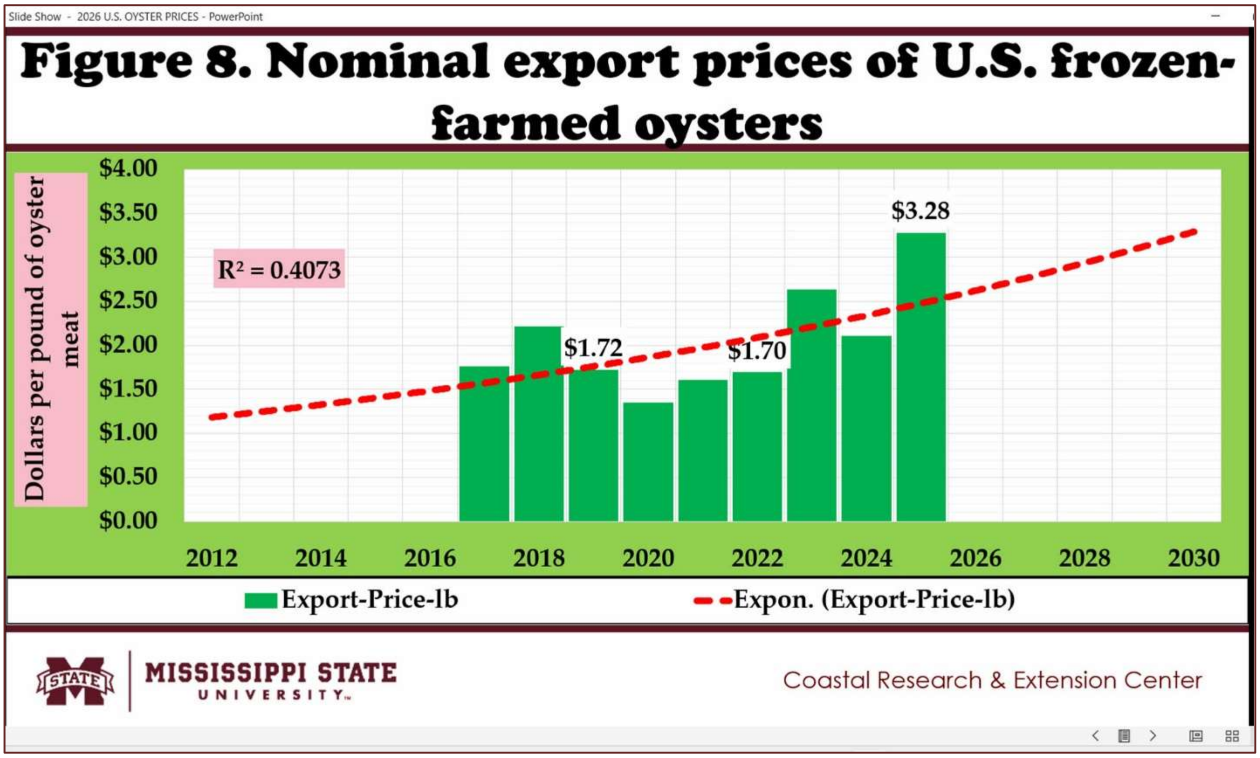
EXPORTED-LIVE-FRESH OYSTERS

- In 2025, the U.S. exported live-fresh oysters mostly to Spain (22.5%), Italy (16.1%), Canada (12.9%), and 10 other countries.
- The nominal export prices of U.S. live-fresh oysters from 2012 to 2025 are shown in Figure 7.
- The nominal export prices of U.S. live-fresh oysters reached a peak of $3.67 per pound in 2025.



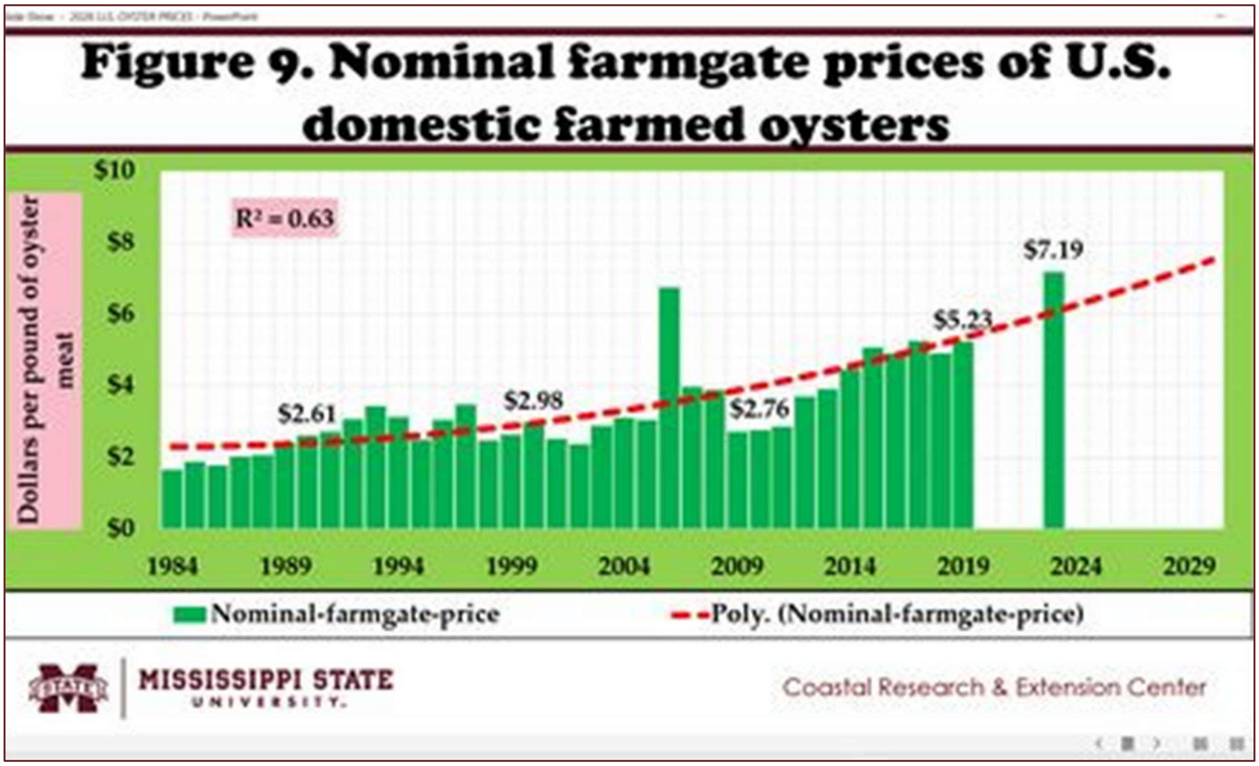
EXPORTED-FROZEN-FARMED OYSTERS

- In 2025, the U.S. exported frozen-farmed oysters mostly to Hong Kong (38.4%), Australia (14.4%), Canada (13.5%), and 10 other countries.
- The nominal prices of U.S. frozen-farmed oyster exports from 2017 to 2025 are shown in Figure 8.
- The nominal export prices of U.S. frozen-farmed oysters reached a peak of $3.28 per pound in 2025.



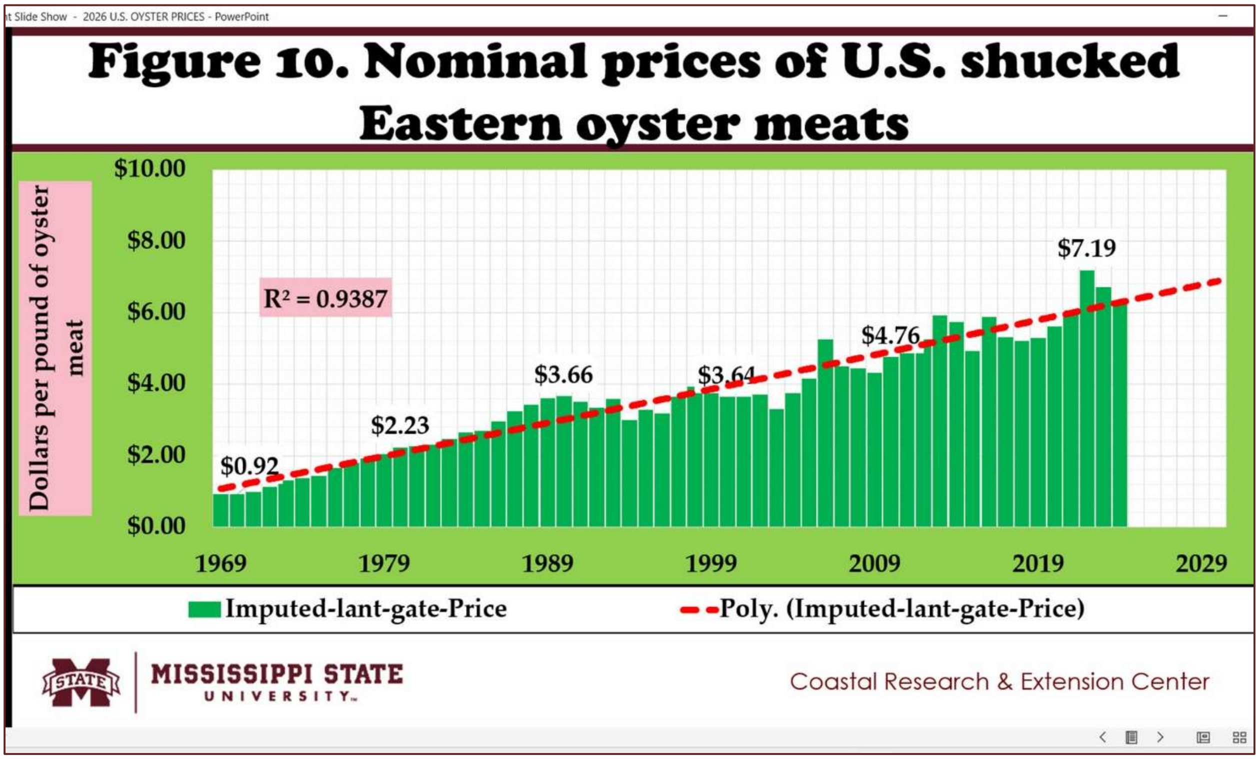
DOMESTIC FARMED OYSTERS

- Washington, California, Oregon, and Alaska are the primary states responsible for commercial production of the Pacific oyster (Crassostrea gigas).
- The Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*)—also known as the Atlantic or American oyster—is the dominant species cultivated along the East Coast and Gulf Coast of the United States.
- The nominal farmgate prices of the U.S. domestic farmed oysters from 1984 to 2023 are shown in Figure 9.
- The nominal farmgate prices of U.S. domestic farmed oysters reached a peak of $7.19 per pound in 2023.



SHUCKED EASTERN OYSTER MEATS

- Shucked oyster meats are raw, shell-free oysters packed in their own natural liquor and ready to use for frying, stews, or dressings.
- The nominal plant-gate prices of the U.S. domestic shucked Eastern oysters from 1969 to 2024 are shown in Figure 10.
- The nominal plant-gate prices of U.S. domestic shucked Eastern oysters reached a peak of $7.19 per pound in 2022.



SUMMARY, LIMITATIONS, AND IMPLICATIONS

- The imputed dockside prices of U.S. Eastern and Pacific oysters averaged $10.90 and $6.13 per pound of meat, from 2021 to 2024, respectively.
- The imputed import prices of U.S. live-fresh-wild and live-fresh-farmed oysters averaged $4.39 and $3.84 per pound of meat, from 2021 to 2025, respectively.
- The imputed export prices of U.S. live-fresh and frozen-farmed oysters averaged $3.37 and $2.27 per pound of meat, from 2021 to 2025, respectively.

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- The imputed export prices of U.S. live-fresh and frozen-farmed oysters averaged $3.37 and $2.27 per pound of meat, from 2021 to 2025, respectively.

- U.S. domestic dockside prices command the highest per-pound value, significantly outperforming both imported and exported oyster products.

- The table below provides a clean comparison of the imputed average oyster prices across different market segments:

Oyster Market Segment	Product Category	Time Period	Average Price (per lb of meat)
Domestic Dockside	U.S. Eastern	2021–2024	$10.90
	U.S. Pacific	2021–2024	$6.13
Imports	Live-Fresh-Wild	2021–2025	$4.39
	Live-Fresh-Farmed	2021–2025	$3.84
Exports	Live-Fresh	2021–2025	$3.37
	Frozen-Farmed	2021–2025	$2.27

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