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BREAKING NEWS

VIETNAMESE SEAFOOD

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PANGASIUS NEWS

OVERVIEW

Vietnam's pangasius exports are showing positive overall growth, reaching USD 1.4 billion from January 1 to August 15, 2026, which represents a 9.8% year-on-year increase. The Japanese market, in particular, is demonstrating significant potential, with export value hitting USD 31 million in the first seven months of 2026, up 20% compared to the same period in 2025. July 2026 alone saw a 30% increase to reach approximately USD 5 million. While frozen fillets continue to dominate the export structure at 82%, value-added products (HS 16) now hold an 11% share and represent a strategic, long-term growth avenue for entering Japan's rigorous market.

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PANGASIUS NEWS

JAPANESE MARKET

In the first 7 months of 2026, pangasius exports to Japan reached USD 31 million, up 20% compared to the same period in 2025. In July 2026 alone, the export value reached approximately USD 5 million, an increase of 30%. As of August 15, 2026, Japan ranked 8th among the top 10 largest pangasius import markets for Vietnam, with a total value of over USD 33 million.

Regarding product structure, frozen pangasius fillets remained dominant, accounting for about 82%. Processed pangasius (HS 16) made up 11%, while other HS 03 products accounted for 7%. Developing product lines for sushi, sashimi, and Japanese-style processed foods is a highly potential direction thanks to the advantages of white meat, mild sweet taste, and competitive pricing.

This market demands strictly high standards regarding quality, food safety, traceability, and product stability. Enterprises need to invest systematically from farming areas to processing technology to meet these strict requirements. This approach helps build a solid brand for Vietnamese pangasius rather than merely focusing on increasing export volumes.

PANGASIUS NEWS

CHINESE MARKET

From January 1 to August 15, 2026, China remained the largest pangasius import market with a turnover of over USD 383.2 million, accounting for a 27.2% share and growing by 29.9% year-on-year.

In the first 6 months of 2026 (Jan-Jun 2026), Vietnam was the 3rd largest whitefish supplier to China (trailing only Russia and the US) with an export value of USD 122,833 thousand, up 14.8% compared to the same period in 2025.

Frozen catfish fillets (HS code 030462): Reached a value of USD 58,312 thousand, up 15.0% year-on-year.

Frozen pangasius and catfish (HS code 030324): Reached a value of USD 54,353 thousand, up 3.4% year-on-year.

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PANGASIUS NEWS

OTHER MARKETS

United States: Ranked second in importing Vietnamese pangasius (as of August 15, 2026) with a turnover of over USD 195 million, recording a decline of 11.1%.

Brazil & Thailand: Remained in the top tier with values of USD 113.1 million (up 3.6%) and USD 51.3 million (up 3.3%), respectively.

Overall global structure (Jan 1 - Aug 15, 2026): Pangasius products under HS code 03 contributed 98% to the total export value (reaching over USD 1.38 billion), while processed pangasius under HS code 16 accounted for only a 2% share (reaching USD 27.8 million).

PANGASIUS NEWS

RAW MATERIAL SITUATION

The pangasius fingerling market in the Mekong Delta is showing signs of recovery after a prolonged period of slowdown. Fingerling prices have increased slightly, while stocking activities are becoming more active, indicating improving confidence among farmers.

The price of 30–35 pcs/kg fingerlings is currently around VND 29,000–35,000/kg, up by VND 1,000–3,000/kg compared with three weeks earlier. For 42–45 pcs/kg fingerlings, prices range from VND 36,000–37,000/kg. Demand for fingerlings is increasing as farmers resume stocking after a period of reduced production due to low selling prices and profitability.

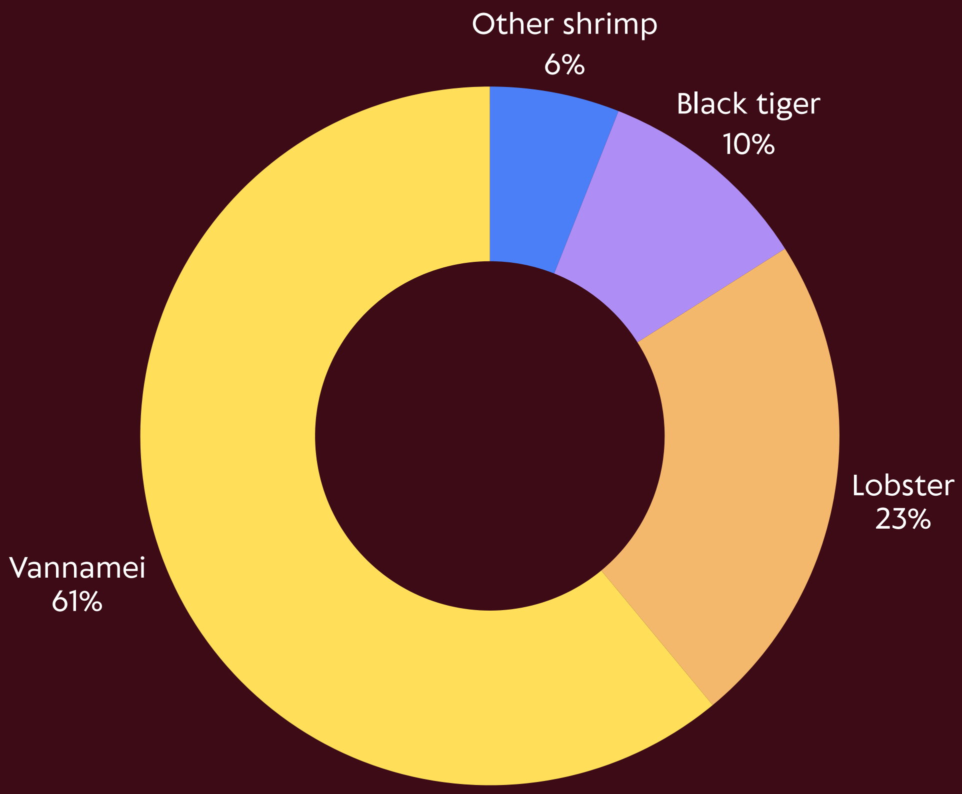
The recovery in stocking activities is a positive signal for future pangasius raw material supply. However, the impact on supply will not be immediate, as newly stocked fish need time to grow and reach harvest size.

Impact on Raw Material: The increase in fingerling prices and stocking activities may support future raw material supply, but short-term availability should still be closely monitored due to the farming cycle.

SHRIMP NEWS

OVERVIEW

Vietnam's shrimp export structure from January 1 to August 15, 2026



Vannamei shrimp dominated the export structure, accounting for 61%, which was considerably higher than the shares of the other types. Lobster ranked second at 23%, making up nearly a quarter of total exports. Meanwhile, black tiger shrimp and other shrimp contributed much smaller proportions, at 10% and 6%, respectively.

Overall, the export structure was highly concentrated in vannamei shrimp, while the remaining three categories together accounted for 39%. The share of vannamei shrimp was nearly three times that of lobster and more than six times that of other shrimp.

SHRIMP NEWS

EU MARKET

The shrimp markets in the EU and the UK saw a slowdown in volume during June 2026, yet the cumulative import value for the first half of the year remained relatively stable. Notably, Vietnam continued to rank among the top three suppliers to the region.

According to Eurostat data compiled by Expana, the EU and the UK imported 58,378 tonnes of shrimp in June—comprising farmed, wild-caught, warm-water, and cold-water varieties. While this volume represented a 4.6% decline compared to the same period in 2025, it remained 5.7% above the five-year average. Ecuador accounted for 47% of the month's imports, followed by India (13%) and Vietnam (10%). Cold-water shrimp from Greenland, Norway, Iceland, and Canada made up approximately 9% of the total, while Argentine red shrimp accounted for about 3%.

Data from Expana shows that the value of shrimp imports into the EU and the UK reached approximately US$2.49 billion during the first half of 2026, a slight increase of 0.3% year-on-year. Trends varied significantly across different sources of supply. Import values from Ecuador fell by 14.9%, whereas imports from India rose by 10.1%, Vietnam by 3.6%, Argentina by 24.2%, and Greenland by 22%. Imports from Bangladesh and Venezuela declined by 19.5% and 13.1%, respectively.

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SHRIMP NEWS

US MARKET

The Expana Shrimp Demand Index rose to 95.95 points during the June–July 2026 period, returning the market to the "Steady" zone after a prolonged spell in the contraction zone. However, accompanying data indicates that this improvement does not necessarily signal a genuine recovery in US shrimp consumption demand.

Trade figures reflect this situation. The US imported 75,397 metric tons of shrimp in June 2026—a 4% year-on-year increase and the highest volume recorded since the beginning of the year. However, the import value rose by only 1% to $641 million, causing the average import price to drop by approximately 3% to $8.50 per kilogram. For the first six months of the year, total US imports stood at 385,037 metric tons, representing a 6% decline in volume and a 5% drop in value compared to the same period in 2025.

SHRIMP NEWS

THAILAND MARKET

The Thai Aquaculture Federation forecasts that the country's shrimp production in 2026 will reach only around 250,000 tonnes—a figure comparable to the previous year and below the industry's growth targets. According to Banjong Nisaphawanich, President of the Federation and an advisor to the Thai Shrimp Association, persistent disease outbreaks in farming areas are the primary factor limiting production expansion.

The Thai shrimp industry has identified three major health issues: Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei (EHP)—often associated with white feces syndrome—White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV), and Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS). These diseases not only increase mortality rates but also prolong the farming cycle, raise treatment costs, and reduce the efficiency of seed and feed utilization. Furthermore, they hinder processing plants from maintaining a stable supply of raw materials and fulfilling export contracts.

The Federation maintains that this is a structural issue requiring a place on the national agenda, rather than being addressed merely through ad-hoc, sporadic measures.

SHRIMP NEWS

RAW MATERIAL SITUATION

EHP (Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei) is caused by an intracellular microsporidian parasite. The disease affects both black tiger shrimp (Penaeus monodon) and vannamei shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei). EHP does not usually cause mass mortality but can significantly affect shrimp growth and farming efficiency.

Shrimp are commonly affected between 30 and 60 days of age. The disease can occur throughout the year and tends to increase during the dry season or prolonged periods of hot weather. Infected shrimp often show slow growth, uneven sizes, weak bodies, and soft or slow-hardening shells. The hepatopancreas may become pale and smaller, while the intestine may contain little or no feed.

EHP spores can survive for a long time in pond sediments, organic matter, and certain carrier organisms, increasing the risk of reinfection. Therefore, controlling seed quality, water sources, pond conditions, and farm hygiene plays an important role in preventing the disease.

Impact on Raw Material: EHP can delay shrimp from reaching harvest size and extend the farming cycle, potentially reducing the availability of harvest-size shrimp and creating raw material sourcing risks.

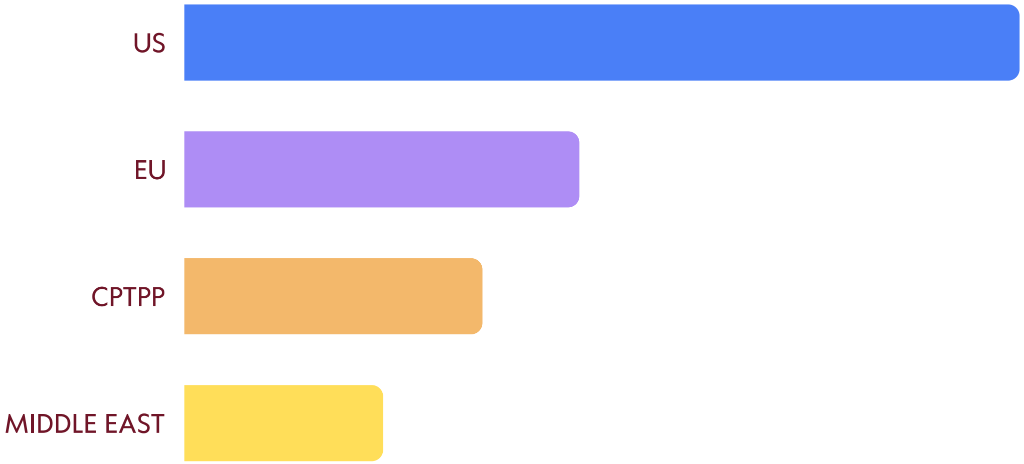
TUNA NEWS

OVERVIEW

In the first 8 months of 2026 (as of August 15), Vietnam's tuna exports reached approximately USD 580.4 million, up 2% year-on-year. Overall growth remained slow, with clear differences across markets and product groups.

The US remained the largest market, accounting for 39.5% of total export value, at USD 229.5 million, up 8.1%. Several markets recorded notable growth, including Russia (+57.9%), the Philippines (+37.4%), Israel (+16.2%), and China & Hong Kong (+68.8%). Meanwhile, exports to the EU fell 18%, while Japan edged down 1.2%, reflecting diverging demand across traditional markets.

Major Import Markets for Vietnamese Tuna (January 1 – August 15, 2026)



TUNA NEWS

JAPANESE MARKET

Vietnam's tuna exports to Japan increased by only around 1% in the first 7 months of the year, with significant month-to-month fluctuations. Exports rose sharply in January but declined in February and March. After recovering in April and June, exports in July fell another 9%, to around USD 2.5 million. This ups-and-downs pattern shows that export orders to Japan remain cautious. The market still has demand, but has yet to establish a steady growth trend.

In terms of product structure, tuna loin, fillets and frozen tuna meat remained the key export products. In the first 6 months, HS0304 products reached over USD 10 million, up 10%, while processed tuna exports reached nearly USD 9 million, with slight growth.

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TUNA NEWS

JAPANESE MARKET

In the first 5 months of 2026, Japan imported nearly USD 928 million worth of tuna, up 14%, while import volume fell 25%, to around 94,000 tonnes.

This trend shows that the market is shifting toward value and quality rather than volume. Japanese buyers are becoming increasingly selective about species, size, quality, specifications and supply sources.

Competition is also becoming more differentiated. While imports from Malta, Taiwan, South Korea, Türkiye and China increased strongly, supplies from Thailand and Indonesia declined. For Vietnam, suppliers with strong positions in frozen and processed tuna are the key competitors to watch closely.

TUNA NEWS

JAPANESE MARKET

Japan is a mature market with increasingly stringent requirements for consistency, food safety, traceability and on-time delivery. This also creates an opportunity for Vietnamese companies to leverage their strengths in frozen tuna loin and fillets processed to specific specifications.

In the final months of the year, tuna exports to Japan may struggle to increase significantly in volume, but there is still room to increase export value. Products with stable quality, serving foodservice, retail and convenience-oriented processing, or meeting specific requirements from Japanese buyers are expected to have greater potential than standard products.

The 1% growth after 7 months is not a particularly strong result. However, as Japan reduces import volumes and becomes increasingly selective in choosing suppliers, maintaining export value indicates that Vietnamese tuna still retains a certain position in the market. Going forward, the competitive focus should be on increasing value rather than pursuing volume, with an emphasis on quality, specifications and the ability to meet Japan's increasingly stringent requirements.

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GOOD ITEMS FOR SALES

FROZEN PANGASIUS FILLET WELL-TRIMMED

- Skinless, boneless, red meat off, fat off, belly off, STPP treatment
- 100% Net Weight with protective glazing
- Size (grs/pc): 120/170; 170/220; 220 up
- Packing: IQF, 1kg bag x 10/ carton

FROZEN BLACK TILAPIA FILLET

- Skinless, boneless, no chemical
- 100% Net weight
- Size (oz/pc): 3-5; 5-7
- Packing: IQF, 1kg plain bag with rider x 10/ carton

FROZEN ROUND SCAD HGT

- Headed, Gutted, Tail-off, no chemical
- 100% Net Weight
- Size (cm/pc): 7/9; 9/11
- Packing: Block, 5kgs/ block x 2/ carton

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GOOD ITEMS FOR SALES

FROZEN COOKED VANNAMEI SHRIMP PDTO

- Headless, Shell-less, Peeled, Cut deveined, Tail On, STPP treated
- 75% Net Weight, 25% Glazing, FC/FW
- Size (pcs/lb): 16/20; 26/30; 31/40; 41/50
- Packing: IQF, 1kg plain bag x 10kg/carton

FROZEN FROG LEGS

- Skinless, belly flaps completely removed, toenails removed, saddle bones removed, STTP treated 0.5%
- 100% Net Weight
- Size (pcs/lb): 6/8; 9/12; 13/15; 16/20
- Packing: IQF Bulk, 30 lbs/PE/carton

FROZEN CUT BABY OCTOPUS (SINGLE SKIN)

- 100% Net Weight, No Chemical
- Size (grs/pc):
- M (40-60gr)
- L (80 gr up)
- Packing: Block, 1kg/block x 5/ carton

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