

Seafood Processing Employment and Incomes in the Gulf of Mexico and the United States

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Seafood Product Preparation and Packaging (NAICS 311710)

The gross economic contributions of the seafood processing industry in the United States reached almost \$31 billion in 2015 (NOAA Fisheries). This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in one or more of the following: canning seafood (including soup); smoking, salting, and drying seafood; eviscerating fresh fish by removing heads, fins, scales, bones, and entrails; shucking and packing fresh shellfish; processing marine fats and oils; and freezing seafood. Establishments known as "floating factory ships" that are engaged in the gathering and processing of seafood into canned seafood products are included in this industry. (Source: <https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/index.html>)

Seafood Processing Employment and Wages, Salaries, and Earnings

The seafood processing industry directly provided more than 42,000 jobs per year in the United States since 2001 (Figure 1). The five Gulf of Mexico States (AL, FL, LA, MS, and TX) contributed about 25.7 percent of all the seafood processing jobs during the period. The seafood processing activities in Mississippi and Alabama added 7.3 and 4.2 percent of the total number of jobs, respectively.

The combined wages, salaries, and proprietor earnings (at constant 2016 prices) of all the QCEW employees, non-QCEW employees, self-employed, and extended proprietors in the United States averaged more than \$41,000 per person during the past 16 years (Figure 1). The annual pay of workers and owners of seafood processing businesses in the five Gulf of Mexico States averaged more than \$31,000 per person or 76.8 percent of the national average. Mississippi and Alabama seafood processing workers and owners received average annual pay equivalent to 60.0 and 63.1 percent of the national average, respectively.

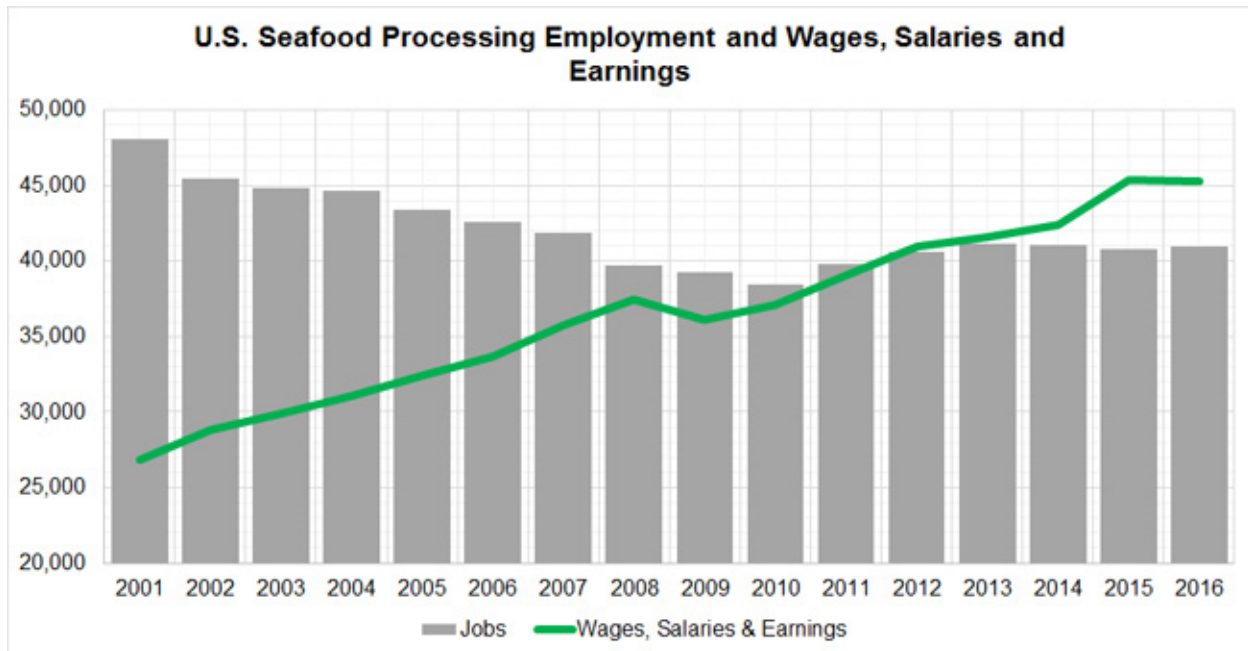


Figure 1. Annual Employment and Wages, Salaries, and Earnings of Seafood Processing QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, Self-Employed, and Extended Proprietors. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Source of raw data: EMSI. <https://e.economicmodeling.com>.

Distribution of Seafood Processing Workers by Gender

The 2016 industrial overview released by EMSI (October 2017) showed that among seafood processing workers and owners in the United States, approximately 64.1 percent were males (Figure 2). About 35.9 percent of the seafood processing workers and owners were females. In the Gulf States, relatively more females worked in seafood processing plants.

Industry Gender Breakdown	United States		Gulf of Mexico States	
	2016 Jobs	2016 Percent	2016 Jobs	2016 Percent
Males	26,289	64.1%	5,569	55.8%
Females	14,707	35.9%	4,408	44.2%
Total	40,995	100.0%	9,977	100.0%

Figure 2. Distribution of Seafood Processing QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, Self-Employed, and Extended Proprietors by Gender. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Source of raw data: EMSI. <https://e.economicmodeling.com>.

Distribution of Seafood Processing Workers by Race or Ethnicity

The 2016 industrial overview disseminated by EMSI (October 2017) also grouped the seafood processing workers and owners by race or ethnicity (Figure 3). Most of the workers are Whites (47.3%), followed by Asians (19.6%), Native Americans or Alaska Native (15.7%), and Hispanic or Latino (15.0%). The remaining workers and owners are African Americans (0.8%), with two or more races (1.1%), and Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islander (0.5%). In the Gulf States, relatively more Asians are engaged in seafood processing.

Industry Race Breakdown	United States		Gulf of Mexico States	
	2016 Jobs	2016 Percent	2016 Jobs	2016 Percent
White	19,404	47.3%	3,854	38.6%
Asian	8,025	19.6%	3,219	32.3%
Native American or Alaska Native	6,422	15.7%	1,897	19.0%
Hispanic or Latino	6,143	15.0%	921	9.2%
Two or More Races	464	1.1%	47	0.5%
Black or African American	342	0.8%	26	0.3%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	197	0.5%	12	0.1%
Total	40,995	100.0%	9,977	100.0%

Figure 3. Distribution of Seafood Processing QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, Self-Employed, and Extended Proprietors by Race or Ethnicity. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Source of raw data: EMSI. <https://e.economicmodeling.com>.

Distribution of Seafood Processing Workers by Age

The 2016 industrial overview published by EMSI (October 2017) also classified the seafood processing workers and owners in the United States by age (Figure 4). More than 1 out of 4 of the workers and owners are 55 years old and above. The 45-55 years old seafood processing workers and owners consisted of 26.5 percent of the total. The 35-44 years old group added 20.4 percent of the total. More than 1 out of 4 of the workers and owners are below 35 years old. The age grouping of the seafood processing workers and owners in the Gulf States are similar to that of the national breakdown.

Industry Age Breakdown	United States		Gulf of Mexico States	
	2016 Jobs	2016 Percent	2016 Jobs	2016 Percent
14-18	364	0.9%	74	0.7%
19-24	2,901	7.1%	688	6.9%
25-34	7,648	18.7%	1,859	18.6%
35-44	8,380	20.4%	2,101	21.1%
45-54	10,851	26.5%	2,602	26.1%
55-64	7,865	19.2%	1,940	19.4%
65+	2,986	7.3%	713	7.1%
Total	40,995	100.0%	9,977	100.0%

Figure 4. Distribution of Seafood Processing QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, Self-Employed, and Extended Proprietors by Age. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Source of raw data: EMSI. <https://e.economicmodeling.com>.

Seafood Processing Businesses Registered in MarketMaker

It is not difficult to create an online database of local seafood processing businesses. You may use the following search in Mississippi MarketMaker or other state MarketMaker programs (<https://ms.foodmarketmaker.com/>):

States: AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, or WY » Type: Processor/Packing Shed » Profile: Processor/Packing Shed > Fish/Shellfish/Seafood Products

More than 1,000 seafood processing businesses in the United States registered their business profiles in MarketMaker. Click this [LINK](#) to view the search results online. You can sort the results alphabetically, by relevance, or by the distance to your current location.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is MarketMaker?

MarketMaker is the most extensive and most in-depth database of its kind featuring a diverse community of food-related businesses: buyers, farmers/ranchers, fisheries, farmers markets, processors/packers, wineries, restaurants and more. **MarketMaker** provides simple yet powerful search tools to connect with others across the production and distribution chain (<http://ms.foodmarketmaker.com/>).

Where can you find Mississippi MarketMaker?

MarketMaker is located at <http://ms.foodmarketmaker.com/>.

Ask Siri or Cortana to search for “Mississippi MarketMaker” on your smartphone.

How do you register your food business in Mississippi MarketMaker?

Click **Register** and type your email address and a password in the spaces under **Register**. Be prepared to enter information (and pictures) about your business.

What are the benefits of registering your food business in Mississippi MarketMaker?

Producers register their businesses in **MarketMaker** because food buyers of all types access our database to find products and services to meet their specific needs. Through **MarketMaker**, producers can reach more customers and more efficient form successful business alliances.

How do you search for your business profile in Mississippi MarketMaker?

Click **Search** and type the name of your company in the space under **Search MarketMaker**.

How do you update your business profile in Mississippi MarketMaker?

Click **Register** and then click **UPDATE YOUR PROFILE**. Type your email address and password in the spaces under **Account Login**. Be prepared to enter updated information (and pictures) about your business.

MarketMaker Training Workshops

This training workshop is available upon request by a group of 6-12 producers, extension agents, state regulatory agencies staff, and teachers. Each workshop will best fit the needs of the participants. Email Dr. Ben Posadas for details at ben.posadas@msstate.edu.

How do you search for local food businesses in Mississippi MarketMaker?

Click **Search** and type a keyword in the space under **Search MarketMaker**.

What is the Market Research tool of MarketMaker?

The MarketMaker research tool is an interactive mapping resource for identifying target markets, developing customized census profiles, and mapping food related businesses over demographic maps.

Where do you find the Market Research tool in MarketMaker?

Look for the **Market Research** section in MarketMaker and click **Research your market now** or **Use the previous version**.