



ABOUT ASTA

The American Spice Trade Association (ASTA) was established in 1907 and serves as the voice of the U.S. spice industry in the global market. Member companies are involved in all aspects of the spice trade: importing, growing, processing, and marketing at both the wholesale and retail levels. Nearly 200 companies worldwide, with 118 in the U.S., are members of ASTA.

ASTA's mission is to ensure the supply of clean, safe spices. To this end, ASTA assists its members on a variety of technical issues and works with policymakers on issues that impact the spice industry. Specifically, ASTA is a member of the Alliance for a Stronger FDA, which advocates to ensure that FDA is adequately funded.

ABOUT the Spice Industry:

The spice industry supports the U.S. economy.

- The spice industry supports the overall food and agricultural sector, which accounts for about one fifth of the U.S. economy.
- In 2016, the spice and extract industry directly employed over 18,000 people in the U.S.
- The spice industry is an inherently global industry that supports the livelihood of farmers in many developing nations. Spices are sourced from countries all over the world, but are often processed and sold for use in food products made in the U.S.
- Spices are an essential part of global trade and have helped to shape international trade for centuries.

ASTA's highest priority is to ensure a safe and wholesome supply of spices.

- Spices are a vital component of a broad array of food products and are safely used in food for both the flavor they impart and the ability of some spices to preserve foods.
- Spices are a natural way to provide flavor without adding calories or other nutrients. The 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends that consumers flavor foods with herbs and spices to help limit salt intake.
- The spice industry is regulated by the FDA, which guarantees that all spices, including imported spices, are processed to the same high standard as all food in the U.S.