# The \$24.5 Billion US Ethnic Food Market Growth, Top Players and Challenges

The **US ethnic food market**, currently valued at **USD 24.5 billion**, is experiencing a remarkable surge, driven by increasing multiculturalism, evolving consumer preferences, and health-conscious eating habits. With more Americans embracing international cuisines, demand for authentic Mexican, Chinese, Indian, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern flavors has skyrocketed.

As major metropolitan areas like New York, Los Angeles, and Miami continue to be cultural melting pots, ethnic food consumption is becoming mainstream, reflecting the nation's diverse population. Meanwhile, e-commerce and supermarket expansions are making ethnic food products more accessible than ever.

For a detailed market breakdown, explore the **US Ethnic Food Industry**.

#### **Growth Drivers of US Ethnic Food Market**

#### Supermarkets and Online Retailers

The availability of ethnic ingredients through various channels

#### Health-Conscious Consumers

The demand for healthy, authentic ethnic foods



# **Cultural Diversity** and Immigration

The influence of immigrant communities on American food trends

#### Restaurant Chains

The role of restaurant chains in making ethnic cuisine accessible

Source: Ken Research

# What's Driving the Popularity of Ethnic Cuisine in the U.S.?

- Cultural Diversity and Immigration: With over 47.9 million foreign-born residents in the U.S. as of 2022, ethnic communities have played a significant role in shaping American food trends. The continued migration of diverse populations has introduced traditional flavors, ingredients, and cooking techniques into the mainstream food culture.
- Restaurant Chains Expanding Ethnic Offerings: The U.S. now has over 78,000 ethnic
  restaurants, ranging from independent family-owned eateries to fast-casual chains like
  Chipotle, Panda Express, and Olive Garden. These brands have bridged the gap
  between authenticity and accessibility, making global flavors more familiar and widely
  consumed.
- Health-Conscious Consumers Seeking Natural and Authentic Ingredients: Diets such as Mediterranean and Japanese have gained immense popularity due to their focus on fresh, whole ingredients. Consumers are looking for minimally processed, nutrient-dense foods, increasing demand for ethnic options that align with health-conscious eating habits.
- Supermarkets and Online Retailers Driving Availability: Supermarkets and hypermarkets remain the largest distribution channels, but the rise of e-commerce giants like Amazon and Walmart has made ethnic food products more accessible. Online grocery shopping has particularly benefited consumers seeking hard-to-find international ingredients.

**Download the full sample report** on US Ethnic Food Market Forecast.

# The Key Players Shaping the US Ethnic Food Industry

As ethnic cuisine gains widespread appeal, established brands and emerging players are competing for market dominance by offering innovative products, expanded distribution networks, and premium ingredients.

#### **Goya Foods**

- Established: 1936 (Jersey City, New Jersey)
- Specialty: Latin American cuisine, with an extensive range of products including beans, rice, and spices.
- Market Strategy: Strong distribution across grocery chains and e-commerce platforms.

#### **Ajinomoto Foods North America**

- Established: 1909 (Torrance, California)
- Specialty: Japanese and Asian cuisine, including seasonings, frozen meals, and sauces.
- Innovation Focus: Development of healthier and lower-sodium Asian food products.

#### **McCormick & Company**

• Established: 1889 (Hunt Valley, Maryland)

- Specialty: Seasonings and spices catering to Mexican, Indian, and Middle Eastern cuisines.
- Revenue: Over USD 6 billion, with continuous growth in ethnic spice blends.

#### **Hain Celestial Group**

- Established: 1993 (Lake Success, New York)
- Specialty: Organic and plant-based ethnic food options.
- Sustainability Focus: Ethical sourcing and clean-label products.

#### **Amy's Kitchen**

- Established: 1987 (Petaluma, California)
- Specialty: Organic and frozen ethnic meals, particularly Indian, Mexican, and Asian-inspired dishes.

For insights on global food trends, check out the <u>KSA Food Service Industry</u> and the <u>Asia Pacific Vegan Food Industry</u>.

# **Challenges Facing the Ethnic Food Industry**

- Supply Chain Bottlenecks Ethnic food imports often face logistical challenges, port delays, and transportation issues, affecting the availability of fresh international ingredients such as tropical fruits and spices.
- Tariff and Trade Policies In 2023, the U.S. imposed tariffs on various Chinese food imports, increasing costs by an average of 7%. This has impacted the affordability of products like sauces, noodles, and specialty spices.
- Regulatory Barriers on Imports The FDA's strict safety and labeling requirements pose hurdles for international food brands trying to enter the U.S. market, sometimes leading to rejected shipments and delayed product availability.

### What's Next for the USA Ethnic Food Market?

- The Rise of Fusion and Gourmet Ethnic Foods Consumers are embracing fusion cuisine—Korean-Mexican tacos and Indian-inspired burgers—as chefs and food brands experiment with innovative combinations.
- E-Commerce and Direct-to-Consumer Growth The digital revolution in grocery shopping is accelerating access to international food products, with consumers ordering specialty ethnic ingredients online.
- Plant-Based and Vegan Ethnic Options There is growing demand for vegan alternatives to traditional ethnic dishes, creating new opportunities for food brands to offer dairy-free and plant-based versions of global favorites.

To explore future trends in fast food and global dining habits, check out the **APAC Fast Food Industry**.

# Conclusion

As America's culinary landscape continues to evolve, the demand for authentic, high-quality ethnic foods is only expected to grow. With shifting consumer preferences, expanding e-commerce accessibility, and a multicultural population, the ethnic food market is poised for continued expansion.

You can also read about: <u>The India Commercial Drone Market Growth, Key Players, and Future Outlook</u>